

Thatcher to visit Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev will meet in Moscow Sept. 23 to take stock of world developments since they last met in April, a Soviet spokesman said Tuesday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Pavlov confirmed a Moscow Radio report that Thatcher would meet Gorbachev on her way home from a visit to Tokyo. "It is only five months since Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to London, but there have been major events in Europe and worldwide in that period and both sides want to check their political clocks," Pavlov said. He said a wide-ranging agenda for the talks would include East-West relations, disarmament and European affairs, as well as international affairs and bilateral relations. He added that the talks could cover a diplomatic row between the two countries in May, when Britain expelled eight Soviet diplomats and three journalists for spying and Moscow retaliated by expelling the same number of Britons. "Our relations require frequent analysis to set right problems," he said. "We are sure that this meeting, although short, will be useful — as previous ones have been."

Jordan Times

An independent newspaper daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأسي

No curbs on foreign currency accounts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) announced Tuesday that residents in Jordan holding foreign currency accounts can make unconditional cash withdrawals from their accounts within the limits of the deposits. A CBJ memorandum issued allowed unconditional transfers of such funds among banks and licensed financial companies. The memorandum also referred to the CBJ's authorization to commercial banks and licensed financial companies "to make transfers from the accounts of residents in foreign currency according to their request to cover their current expenses in foreign currency within the sums these financial institutions are authorized by the CBJ and within the deposited sums in foreign exchange." Withdrawals and transfers from these accounts can take place unconditionally at the maturity of the deposit terms, the CBJ statement said. The permission to supply foreign accounts with foreign currency and withdrawing from these accounts without the need to keep the money on fixed deposit for six months is intended to free the money from being fixed for any duration of time and "to enable holders of such accounts to cover their commitments in foreign currency from their cash deposits when needed," the memorandum said.

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King holds bilateral talks with non-aligned leaders

BELGRADE (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday held a series of meetings with world leaders attending the ninth summit of the Non-Aligned Movement here and discussed with them the latest developments in the regional and international scenes and issues of mutual interest to Jordan and their respective countries.

The King also visited the tomb of the late Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito and laid a wreath there, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Among the leaders whom the King met Tuesday were Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak,

Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir, Argentine President Carlos Menem, Nepalese King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, South Yemeni head of state Ali Abdullah Salim, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Bangladeshi President Hussain Ershad, Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa, Omani Deputy Prime Minister Ous Qawazi and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Ibn Alawi, North Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Hassan Makki and Foreign Minister Ahmad Al-Tayari, Pakistani Federal Minister Nusrat Bhutto and the Ethiopian prime

minister. Petra did not give details of the King's discussions with these leaders, but it was believed that the Lebanese situation and the Arab-Israeli conflict figured high in the talks.

According to international agency dispatches from Belgrade, Menem, the Argentine president, is planning to launch a peace plan for the Middle East. The reports said the King and Menem discussed the situation in the Middle East and that the Argentine president, who is of Syrian descent, will be paying a visit to several countries in the area before the end of this year.

U.N. chief calls on Arabs to revive Lebanon effort

BELGRADE (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar urged members of an Arab League committee Tuesday to revive their mediation efforts to end 14 years of civil strife in Lebanon.

A U.N. official said Perez de Cuellar held talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal and Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelatif Filali at the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Belgrade. He is also expected to meet Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

"We informed them of our position that the committee should work again for peace in Lebanon," the official told Reuters.

A U.N. ceasefire called last month brought a brief halt to the fighting in Lebanon but quickly

collapsed. French and Soviet peace efforts have failed so far. Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria — assigned by the Arab League last May to end the bloodshed in Lebanon — said in July their efforts had failed. They have recently come under mounting regional and international pressure to resume their peace mission.

A final non-aligned summit declaration is expected to urge the Arab committee to continue its efforts, assert Lebanon's sovereignty and call for an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon.

In another development at the summit, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat warned of a destructive war in the Middle East if Washington and Israel failed to accept his peace initiative and call an international peace conference.

Arafat called on the 102-member movement to exert "the necessary pressure on the United States to hasten the convening of the international conference to bring about just and comprehensive peace in Palestine and the Middle East."

"Because the alternative is total explosion in the Middle East, the most explosive area in the world and in which weapons, missiles and bombs, are stockpiled," he told the summit.

Iranian move

Iranian delegates threw discussions on the future of Afghanistan into disarray at the summit by insisting that the country should be described as "Islamic Afghanistan."

Differences between Pakistani and Indian-supported drafts of the resolution on Afghanistan — which the four-day summit is due to accept — were being narrowed when Iran proposed the name change, they said.



A Lebanese family poses by an exploded shell launched by Israeli planes in an air raid on east Lebanon Sunday night.

Israelis kill resistance fighter

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and killed an unidentified man Tuesday in a shootout several metres north of an Israeli settlement along the border with Lebanon, an army spokesman said.

The spokeswoman said two other guerrillas, apparently resistance fighters, fled after the pre-dawn clash. Military sources said the guerrilla carried a Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifle, ammunition clips and several grenades.

He could not identify the guerrilla or the organisation he represented. The incident came a day after Israeli warplanes rocketed a Palestinian base on the rim of east-

Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, wounding four Palestinians.

The base was used by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. The air raid followed two attacks in which rockets were fired from South Lebanon into northern Israel. No one was hurt in the attacks.

Last Thursday, Israeli troops fought a battle with four guerrillas north of the border, and one member of the Shi'ite Amal militia was killed.

Israeli forces have also repeatedly clashed with fighters of the Hizbollah movement and it was not immediately clear which group was involved in the latest skirmish.

Israeli army uses helicopters to track Palestinian activists

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — The Israeli army is using helicopters to track down wanted Palestinians in remote villages and mountain hideouts in the occupied West Bank, Israel Radio reported Tuesday.

An army spokesman said the military has used helicopters for specific missions in the occupied territories but refused to verify the use of the choppers was part of a new policy for arresting leaders of the Palestinian uprising.

Also Tuesday, a 12-year-old Palestinian boy died of wounds suffered in a earlier clash with soldiers and an Arab suspected of cooperating with the Israeli occupation authorities was stabbed to death, reports said.

The boy, Ahmad Al Abed Al Bittar from the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis, died of a head wound sustained in a clash with troops last week, the reports said.

Palestinian sources said a masked assailant used to shoot Naim Asana, 36, in the Gaza Strip's Rafah refugee camp and seriously wounded another suspected collaborator, Fathi Abu Khader, 36.

Israeli forces are hunting 700 Palestinians they believe are the hard core of the uprising, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron told parliament Tuesday.

The wanted men are known in army slang as "bigos" because their identity card numbers are issued in long lists to troops in the occupied territories.

Shomron told the foreign affairs and defence committee at a closed-door hearing that the army and secret police were concentrating on rounding up the enforcers of the revolt, participants said.

The wanted men are members of so-called strike forces which attack Arabs accused of collabor-

ating with Israel, distribute leaflets and write graffiti to spread the calls of the uprising leaders. Troops shot dead two allegedly long-wanted militants and wounded and captured three others in a pre-dawn raid on a house in the West Bank city of Nablus Saturday.

Sources say plainclothes soldiers, often riding in commandeered Arab cars, are increasingly being used to target hard-core activists.

Bnt Palestinian activists questioned the efficiency of Israel's tactics, noting that it had already jailed between 13,000 and 15,000 Arabs without breaking the uprising.

Israel Radio and two major daily newspapers said air force commanders agreed two weeks ago to use helicopters to track down Palestinians wanted by the military.

U.S., Israel said at odds

TEL AVIV (AP) — A new disagreement over Middle East strategy has erupted between Israel and the United States over how to resolve the Palestinian refugee problem, Israeli media reported Tuesday.

The issue concerns the more than two million Palestinians living in the Middle East who were uprooted from their homes with the founding of the state of Israel in 1948 and during subsequent Arab-Israeli wars.

In a letter this week to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, U.S. President George Bush turned down an Israeli request for aid to rehabilitate refugee camps in the occupied territories, said Shamir's spokesman, Yossi Alimich.

He said the United States, Japan, Canada and European nations all rejected the request, conditioning any additional

assistance on the refugee question to making further progress in stalled peace efforts.

Bush's letter came in response to Shamir's request about two months ago for the United States to take a leading role in aiding rehabilitation of the camps, Alimich said. He said Shamir made the point that Israel cannot afford to do this on its own.

"We consider the refugee problem to be a very important human problem," Alimich said. "Resolving it could help advance the entire peace initiative."

The issue arose as Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc headed to Washington to drum up more American help and to argue against Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat receiving a U.S. visa to address the

United Nations

Netanyahu, who spoke on the radio, blamed the Palestinians for holding up the peace process, saying slayings of 107 residents in the occupied territories allegedly by fellow Arabs were aimed at blocking agreement to Israel's initiative. Most of those killed were accused of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities.

Concerning Arafat's plans to address the U.N. General Assembly in New York this month if he obtains a visa, Netanyahu said: "We have said there is no reason to encourage radical elements like the PLO with visits to the United States."

Maarive quoted Bush as saying in his letter to Shamir that the refugee camps had to be part of a "comprehensive plan to resolve the conflict."

Carbomb kills 2 in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb went off in a crowded district of east Beirut Tuesday, killing two people and wounding seven as rival gunmen intermittently fired across the city's green line.

Police said the white Mercedes-Benz rigged with about 40 kilograms of TNT went off at 9:20 a.m. (0620 GMT) during the morning rush hour in the busy Mokkales district at Beirut's southeastern edge.

A police spokesman said investigations "failed to determine what detonated the car bomb because the detonation fuse was found unexploded in the vehicle's trunk along with two anti-tank mines."

"We tend to believe the vehicle exploded by mistake. Maybe due to an electrical short circuit," said a police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations. "Had the mines exploded they would have shattered the whole district," the spokesman said.

The blast, which echoed across east Beirut, set ablaze seven vehicles, including a Lebanese army jeep, uprooted power poles and smashed glass within a 500-metre radius.

Radio stations interrupted regular programming to flash reports of the blast and call on motorists to avoid going through Mokkales.

Ambulances and fire engines rushed to the scene to evacuate casualties and combat the fire which blazed in the gutted cars for about 40 minutes.

Power cables dangled from shrapnel-scattered buildings that were blackened by smoke billowing from the burned-out cars.

Soldiers of army commander Michel Aoun and policemen sealed off the whole of Mokkales, allowing only rescue teams and news reporters to approach the blast scene.

Policemen waved cars past a nearby roundabout to make way for ambulances that raced the victims to east Beirut hospitals.

The dead men were the drivers of the two cars, radio said, suggesting there were rigging the car bomb when it went off accidentally destroying their getaway car as well.

"It could have been a lot worse if it had been nearer the market," said a Lebanese army captain inspecting the remains of the cars. "The explosion was relatively small compared to most we have here."

It was the eighth car bomb explosion in Lebanon this year.

Protest at U.S. mission

At the heavily-fortified Amer-

ican embassy, 400 Lebanese Christians demonstrated to demand U.S. support against Syria but fled when shellfire from the western sector landed in the sea nearby.

"Rambo where are you?" read one of the placards held aloft by a young student outside the U.S. embassy gates.

A day of relative hull in Beirut's sixth month of artillery duels was also punctuated by shelling of the suburb of Baabda, where Aoun rules the Christian enclave from the ruins of the presidential palace.

Security sources said four shells hit Aoun-held areas near the green line battle zone dividing the city, wounding a child. Others slammed into the Clemenceau neighbourhood of Beirut.

Organisers of the embassy protest, also in east Beirut, had said they would surround the hilltop U.S. mission until Washington forced Syria to end a blockade of the Christian enclave.

Four shells fired from west Beirut exploded in the sea about 1,500 metres away, sending hundreds of protesters scrambling down a road to their cars.

More than 790 people, mostly civilians, have been killed and 3,300 wounded since Aoun launched a drive to expel Syrian troops from Lebanon in March.

Japan, Jordan keen to develop ties, seek suitable mechanism

By Suhair Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian-Japanese relations, though relatively new, are built on solid bases but need further development and both sides have shown keen interest in building ties despite differences on which side should take the initiative. Both sides will continue dialogue towards defining the mechanisms to achieve basic mutual understanding. This was the conclusion of a one-day seminar held here Tuesday.

Participants from both sides advocated a step-by-step approach to developing bilateral ties and cooperation. "We need far-sighted long-term objective goals," said the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Makoto Watanabe. "This could be reached through step-by-step procedures, involving dissemination of knowledge and information, educational and exchanges as well as trade and investment," he said.

"They must complement each other because if we just pursue economic exchange then we lack basic understanding of each other (and) we will not be able to contribute to the successful conduct of economic activities," he told the Jordan Times in an interview on the sidelines of the conference.

In a working paper he submitted to the seminar, the ambassador said progress in developing such an understanding needed "strong initiative and persistent efforts, basically from the Jordanian side."

"At the same time," he added, "quick and significant results may not emerge even from these efforts."

At present, the knowledge possessed by the Japanese and the Jordanians of each other is, in general, still vague and fragmentary," he said. "Specific instances of the development of the relations between the two countries still depend heavily on the interest, initiatives and enthusiasm of some specific individuals on both sides. The most immediate task for the future development of the relationship must be to explore all possible measures to expand the network of concerned individuals in and between the

two countries as well as to deepen and make more comprehensive the mutual knowledge in both Japan and Jordan."

The ambassador reviewed trade ties. Jordan's export to Japan amounted to JD 0.1 million in 1964, JD 3.8 million in 1974, JD 5.5 million in 1984 and JD 7.4 million in 1987.

Jordan's import from Japan amounted to JD 2.3 million in 1964, JD 7.4 million in 74, JD 79.0 million in 84 and JD 55.7 million in 87.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, also addressed the issue of mutual understanding and suggested the means to achieve it. Among the ways he suggested were establishment of academic initiatives such as exchange of seats in universities, an initiative which both side can afford, this would consequently help in opening windows of investment.

Speakers at the seminar agreed upon the need to increase human exchange in order to bridge the attitudes of both countries so that Japan would no longer look at the Middle East as solely an oil producer, and Jordan would broaden its span of relations to include the eastern side of the world.

Mohammad Asfour, chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, underlined the necessity to focus on exchange of knowledge and transfer of technology in establishing channels through which Jordan could benefit from Japan's experience and technical advances.

Noting that the balance of trade was heavily in favour of Japan, Asfour suggested Japanese investments and joint projects in Jordan as reciprocation for the Kingdom's imports. Khalidou Abu Hassan, chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry, suggested a joint venture automobile spare parts manufacturing plant be established in Jordan.

In conclusion, the seminar agreed to continue dialogue between the two sides. A meeting will be held in Tokyo at a time to be set later. A committee will be formed to prepare the ground for the gathering.

Arabs urge more active Japanese role in Mideast

AMMAN (R) — Arab participants at a conference on Arab-Japanese ties which ended in Amman Tuesday urged Tokyo to assume an active political role in the Middle East.

"The Arab side called on Japan to develop its political role in the region, which has been either limited or unfelt, to match the country's economic might and growing power worldwide," Mazen Armouti, the conference's rapporteur, told reporters.

More than 50 officials and intellectuals from Japan, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates and North Yemen attended the two-day conference.

Armouti said the meeting did not adopt any operational resolu-

tions as its original intention was to initiate a solid Arab-Japanese dialogue to open the way for future political, economic and cultural ties.

Arab participants also called on Japan to help them in their modernisation efforts by transferring technology through joint investment projects.

Tokyo, heavily dependent on the Middle East for oil, will host a second round of talks next year.

The conference was organised by the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent and Japan's National Institute for Research Development, a semi-public agency.

Gorbachev to visit Iran 'at any time', Besharati says

NICOSIA (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Iran to cement relations with Moscow and Tehran's links with France are improving daily, a senior Iranian official was quoted as saying Tuesday.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati as saying in an interview with the Tehran Times daily that Gorbachev's visit "may take place at any time."

He gave no date. But such a visit would be the first by a Soviet leader to Iran and would set the seal on the new chapter of relations between Tehran and Moscow.

That was opened by the visit to Moscow in June by Hashemi Rafsanjani, now Iran's new president, ending years of strain between the two neighbours.

Besharati's comments underlined expectations that Rafsanjani, leader of Tehran's so-called pragmatists, will seek to end the Islamic republic's isolation by rebuilding bridges with the West to help economic reconstruction.

Besharati said Monday that Iran wants to improve relations with Arab states in the Gulf, including ending an 18-month-old rift with Saudi Arabia.

He noted in the Tehran Times interview that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze flew to Tehran last month at short notice "without any programming."

He stressed that ties with the Soviets were rapidly improving and said: "We believe that all the commitments made by Moscow were and are being implemented."

He was referring to wide-ranging economic and defence agree-

ments signed by Rafsanjani during his ground-breaking visit to the Soviet capital shortly after Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, died June 3.

Relations between Moscow and Tehran have frequently been stormy, particularly since the 1979 revolution and a later crackdown by the fundamentalist government on Iran's Communist party.

The role of the Soviets, along with France, as Iraq's main weapons suppliers during the war with Iran heightened tension.

But Moscow's relations with Tehran improved following last year's ceasefire in the Gulf war and the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, Iran's eastern neighbour.

Tehran now is making a determined effort to help the Soviets secure a political settlement in

Afghanistan between the warring rebel factions and the Moscow-backed Kabul government.

Besharati, without elaborating, stressed: "The Soviets have shown goodwill intentions towards their ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

On Iran's sea-saw relations with France, Besharati voiced satisfaction at the "upward trend" and said he hoped ties will continue to improve.

Iran's relations with France, and most Western European countries, were strained by Khomeini's Feb. 14 death sentence on British author Salman Rushdie's novel, "The Satanic Verses."

U.S. 'contacts'

Besharati said Monday Tehran has had indirect contacts with Washington and that Western

hostages held in Lebanon could soon be released if Washington press frozen Iranian assets.

Besharati said the hostages "may be released" if the United States released the assets, including military hardware, worth billions of dollars seized in 1979.

Besharati's comments reiterated earlier Iranian offers to help free the Western captives if the assets were unfrozen.

But IRNA said he acknowledged that U.S. President George Bush's administration was making greater conciliatory efforts than former President Ronald Reagan's.

"We see the Bush administration has tried to undo many things of the past," Besharati stressed.

Besharati was careful to stress that the new administration in Tehran was not involved in direct contacts with the United States.

Regent receives squash team

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday received Jordan's squash delegation which participated in the Arab youth championship held recently in Baghdad. The Jordanian team secured the second place in the eight-country championship (Petra photo).

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree, issued Tuesday, endorsed the law related to the radio and television educational programmes. The law defines the members of Radio and Television Educational Programmes Committee, its duties and the subjects which the programmes deal with. (Petra)

CABINET MEETS: The Cabinet meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh, approved of the departure of Youth Minister Dr. Awad Khleifat to Baghdad early October to hold talks with his Iraqi counterpart dealing with the renewal of the youth and sporting protocol between Iraq and Jordan. The discussions will also touch on participation in the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministers of youth due to convene in Baghdad early October as well. The council of ministers also agreed to second a number of employees of the Ministry of Higher Education to work in Oman. (Petra)

ABU TALEB CHAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING: The supreme committee of the Royal Jordanian Geographical Centre held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and listened to a briefing from the centre's director general on the centre's activities and current projects. A number of suitable measures were adopted (Petra)

IZZEDDIN LEAVES FOR SWEDEN: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin Tuesday left for Sweden to deputise for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at the three-day round table conference on the future of the United Nations which will begin Wednesday. (Petra)

DUBAI TEAM VISITS GEOGRAPHICAL CENTRE: A delegation from the municipality of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates Tuesday visited the Royal Jordanian Geographical Centre and was briefed on the centre's duties and achievements. The discussions dealt with means to bolster cooperation between Jordan and Dubai in the field of map production, exchange of technical expertise, and the chance to establish joint projects. The visiting delegation toured the centre and praised the high standard it attained. (Petra)

QATARNEH INSPECTS DISTRICTS: Ma'an Governor 'Id Qataneh Tuesday inspected a number of regions in the districts of Wadi Mousa, Shobak, as well as the historical city of Petra. He was also briefed on the preparations related to the second Petra Cultural Festival due to open on Sept. 10 and continue for six days. (Petra)

MEDICAL CONFERENCE: The general secretariat of the Arab Doctors' Union has decided to hold the Twenty-Sixth Arab Medical Conference in Amman on May 23. On the sidelines of the three-day conference, medical seminars will be held on Arabisation of medical terms, the health situation in the occupied Arab territories, and health insurance in the Arab World. (Petra)

MHEILAN INSPECTS SHARIA COURTS: Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Muhammad Mheilan Monday undertook an inspection tour of Amman Shari'a courts and was briefed on the services and the courts' efforts in handling various cases. (Petra)

NAF HELPS 183 NEW CASES: The National Aid Fund (NAF) has allocated cash aid to 183 new cases at a monthly spending of JD 3,259. The total number of cases receiving monthly aid from the NAF is 9,684 at a monthly rate of JD 190,383. (Petra)

UNLICENSED CRAFTSMEN REMOVED: The municipality of Karak has undertaken measures to move unlicensed craftsmen in the city to the industrial and handicraft zone. The stores in this zone can be used for carpentry, aluminium works, and car repairs, etc. (Petra)

ACC experts seek more allocations for research

AMMAN (Petra) — Researchers and other specialists representing institutions concerned with science and technology in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries have ended a two-day meeting here with a call on their governments to increase their allocations for scientific and technological research at the rate of one per cent from the overall national income.

The participants discussed at length ways to promote cooperation among their institutions, reviewed several working papers that deal with science and technology in the ACC states and the establishment of unified centres to coordinate joint ventures.

They said in a statement that they set up a four member standing committee to assume responsibility for coordination in these matters.

The committee's rapporteur, who is a Jordanian, will serve as a liaison officer to coordinate matters among institutions in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen, according to a statement following the two-day meeting at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

The statement said that the committee will define scopes of future cooperation among the four countries and priorities in various joint projects.

It called for the establishment of a special fund to help finance scientific and technological research.

The participants signed an agreement to coordinate work among the research institutions in the four Arab states, providing for an exchange of visits among scientists and specialists and set up laboratories and new research stations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artists Khaled Ghawamneh and Abdulrahman Khamash, and the Syrian artist Wafaa Al Maari at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.

★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Jalal Oweiqat at the Plastic Artists Association.

★ A North Korean exhibition of photos, books and handicrafts at the University of Jordan.

★ An anti-smoking exhibition which includes paintings and posters showing the harmful effects of smoking, at Philadelphia Hotel.



Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Inasab and Minister of Agriculture Bassam Al Saket Tuesday receive a high-level South Yemeni delegation at the Queen Alia International Airport (Petra photo).

S. Yemeni delegation arrives to pave the way for Attas visit

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A South Yemeni official delegation arrived here Tuesday for meetings with Jordanian government officials on ways to promote Jordanian-South Yemeni ties and to pave the way for a visit to Jordan by South Yemeni President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas.

The delegation includes ministers of industry and trade, supply and agriculture, who will pave the way for bilateral agreements and protocols to organize cooperation in economic, trade and agricultural fields, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The ministers in the South Yemeni delegation are accompanied by a group of officials and aides to draw up the protocols.

According to Petra, Attas is making the visit upon the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein.

Last February, a senior delegation of South Yemen's top officials led by Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali paid a several day visit to Jordan which ended with the creation of a Jordanian-South Yemeni Higher Committee to implement joint ventures and to pave the way for stronger cooperation between them.

Water samples from 3 Arab states being tested at WAJ

AMMAN (Petra) — Samples of water from three Arab countries are currently being tested at laboratories operated by the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) which is affiliated to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

The laboratories which use isotopes in the course of testing water samples and conducting geological tests on underground water resources have been accredited by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a regional centre to conduct tests on water samples.

According to WAJ officials 90 samples arrived from Syria representing the springs of Hjeih and Zababani as well as the Barada River; 19 samples came from

Iraq's water basins and 77 from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

They said that the laboratories help countries in the region to conduct research on underground water resources and discover sources that feed the artesian wells as part of work on a regional water strategy.

According to the officials, IAEA will organise a conference in Damascus in December to be followed by a workshop to assess the (WAJ) laboratory tests.

WAJ is responsible for supplying water to different regions in Jordan from artesian wells and other resources. Artesian wells at Ain Ghazal and Ruseifah, supplying water to Amman, were inspected Tuesday

by Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani. Both wells provide Amman with 74 million cubic metres of water annually.

The minister, who inspected operational water and water distribution programmes, initiated earlier this summer, called for measures to be taken to provide protection and constant maintenance to the pumping equipment, to ensure sufficient water supplies to all parts of the capital.

Keilani also urged WAJ engineers to try to develop new wells to help provide further supplies of water during the summer, calling for the drilling of wells in Awajan, near Zarqa, as well as new wells at Ruseifah and Ain Ghazal.

Malhas to head Amman-based council for combatting smoking

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman has been chosen by delegates to the second anti-smoking conference to play host to a pan-Arab council for combatting smoking and Minister of Health and Social Development Dr. Zuhair Malhas has been elected as council chairman.

The decision came at the conclusion here of a three-day conference to seek ways to fight the smoking habit in the Arab World.

A final statement said that the habit of smoking has recently spread among various groups in the Arab society and the newly established council which was approved by the Arab delegates will handle the task of combating smoking and its adverse effects on socio-economic development.

Apart from setting up the council, the delegates approved a set of regulations for the council's activities which aim to unify Arab action in the fight against smoking.



Zuhair Malhas

They endorsed a set of methods which they said would help achieve the council's objectives including the declaration that the last week of October each year will be observed as a non-smoking week in the Arab World, and introducing subjects

in school textbooks designed to spread awareness against smoking which has adverse effects on any Arab country's economic, agricultural, social and educational development.

The final statement included a call for holding seminars and conferences and issuing special publications by the council to combat smoking in the Arab World.

Following the conclusion of the three-day anti-smoking conference, an exhibition of paintings, posters and other illustrations was organised at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman to help boost a national campaign against smoking.

The week-long exhibition displays paintings by artists from a number of Arab countries expressing the adverse effects of smoking on public health and development. Posters at the exhibition call on members of the public to give up the bad habit.

Ministry takes drastic measures to collect overdue telephone bills

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications is embarking on drastic measures to collect oearly JD 4 million from subscribers who failed to pay their dues for telephone charges.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily quoted Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Al Khammash as saying that JD 4 million is wanted from 11,000 subscribers who had defaulted in the past year and whose subscription has since been terminated. The Finance Ministry will be charged with seizing real estates and other property owned by the defaulting subscribers until payment is made in full, the minister said.

The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has meanwhile started disconnecting telephone lines of those subscribers in the provinces outside the capital who have failed for some time to pay for their telephone calls.

According to TCC Director General Mohammad Shahed

Ismail a total of JD 16.4 million is due for payment to the TCC from subscribers in Amman and the other governorates.

The sum includes the JD 4 million required from those who had their subscription cancelled

and those who are still considered subscribers and are given time to settle their dues.

According to the report quoting Ismail, JD 7.8 million is required from the subscribers in the Amman region alone.

Ministry assesses literary works

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Culture has embarked on arrangements for the assessment of various types of literary and artistic work, prior to presenting the winners with awards in recognition of their efforts to promote the literary and artistic movement in the Kingdom.

A ministry official said that 36 writers, researchers and artists who have conducted work in literature, poetry, short story, education, psychology, economics and Islamic studies are being considered for the awards.

He said that 30 other candidates are being considered for their work in plastic arts and TV and film industry.

He added that a total of three awards will be presented to the best works in literature, arts and social sciences, and the winners will receive memorial certificates and financial gifts.

According to the ministry official, special teams involved in the assessment process are expected to complete their work by the middle of the coming month

Jordanian universities accept record number of high school graduates

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The largest number yet of graduates passing the General Secondary Certificate Examination (Tawjihi) will be accepted in Jordanian universities was announced Tuesday in a new higher education policy aimed at admitting all students who have acquired a cumulative grade of 75 per cent and above in Tawjihi.

The names of the 8,312 students were announced by Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, head of an admission committee in charge of Jordan's five universities at a press conference held at the University of Jordan.

The number of accepted students for the academic year 1989-1990 reflected an increase of 72.2 per cent.

The University of Jordan will admit 3,988 students, Yarmouk University will take 2,737, Mu'ta University's civilian wing will take 632 students and Jordan University of Science and Technology will take 650.

The University College of Applied Engineering has accepted 305 students.

The names of 350 students to be admitted to the military wing of Mu'ta University have not been announced yet but should be available Wednesday.

According to Hamdan, another 350 students will be accepted as night school students at Yarmouk University.

Yarmouk is the only Jordanian university which has opened its doors to older students.

Arab and foreign students who submitted applications to Jordanian universities "will be dealt with by the Ministry of Higher Education at a later time," Hamdan said.

According to Hamdan, 17,629 Jordanian and non-Jordanian students with cumulative averages of 65 per cent and above applied to Jordanian universities this year; 7,384 were accepted.

The lowest cumulative average accepted at the University of Jordan was 75.3 in the School of Education while the number of schools at the university which accepted students with an average less than 80 was five out of

13. Yarmouk University accepted an average of 74.8 per cent at its School of Physical Education, while schools which accepted an average lower than 80 were 15 out of the existing 21.

Mu'ta University accepted an average of 75.1 in Arabic language, while at the Jordan University of Science and Technology the lowest average accepted was 74.9 per cent in the School of Nursing. The University College of Applied Engineering accepted all applicants with an average of 80 per cent and above.

Hamdan pointed out that the number of graduates in Jordan with an average of 75 per cent and above in 1989 scholastic year were 8,819 out of which 7,504 applied to the Committee for Admission to Jordanian Universities; 7,338 were accepted which equals 97.5 per cent of all applicants; the other 2.5 per cent who were not admitted were students who did not choose the appropriate field of study vis-a-vis their average.

Seats for West Bank students will be reserved as part of the 13 per cent of all seats allocated to Arab citizens until next semester. Hamdan pointed out that all applications by Arab citizens, including the citizens of Palestine, had been transferred to the Ministry of Higher Education.

New project to boost amount of fodder in Jordan, Syria and Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman-based office operated by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) will shortly carry out a project in conjunction with Jordan, Syria, and Iraq designed to increase the amount of fodder in the three countries with a view to increasing livestock wealth.

This was announced by Dr. Nassir Haddad, regional coordinator for the office which is in charge of operations in the Western Asia region.

Haddad said that the project will be supported and partly financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Arrangements for the implementation of the five-year project, he said, have already begun and consultations are continuing among the three countries.

The ICARDA office, which started providing services in its capacity as a regional office in June has a general objective to help increase agricultural productivity and food supplies, thus improving economic and social living standards, Haddad noted in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

ICARDA's regional office provides services to Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Cyprus. ICARDA was established in

1977 to undertake research and training, relevant to the needs of the developing countries, specifically for the agricultural systems of West Asia and North Africa.

According to Haddad, the ICARDA office seeks to increase agricultural production, but at the same time, improve social and economic conditions for people.

Haddad pointed out that the office will seek to increase agricultural cooperation and bring about a transfer in modern agricultural technology within the Western Asia region.

KARAK FEED DISTRIBUTION CENTRES: Governor of Karak Isma'il Dhaiman Tuesday inspected the feed distribution centres in the regions of Mushairafah and Qatranah and called for increasing such centres so as to reduce pressure on the current centres and serve the citizens. (Petra)

Committee collects working papers for meeting on safeguarding future

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A committee preparing for next month's regional conference on safeguarding the future, is going ahead with its work and collecting working papers to be reviewed by the delegates representing various Arab countries and a number of organisations.

The committee made the announcement following a meeting here in which cooperation with the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) was discussed in detail.

The UNFPA and the NHF are both co-sponsoring the semi-regional conference, which will review papers dealing with population migration and distribution, the environment and the role of women in development, according to the announcement.

Representatives from the ministries of health, planning and social development in Arab countries, as well as the media, will be taking part in the conference which will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The preparatory committee has in turn set up three sub-committees for information, protocol, and public relations, as well as tourism, each of which will prepare a working plan to be referred to the preparatory committee.

The announcement quoted the UNFPA representative in Amman Darwas Alkhas as saying that the convening of the coming conference will be part of the fund's 20th anniversary celebrations.

He said the conference will tackle subjects linked to socio-economic factors influencing the individual and the society alike, with the purpose of arriving at appropriate methods and programmes designed to promote social and economic development in the Arab region.

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Learning from a superpower

THE ONGOING Arab-Japanese dialogue in Amman assumes higher significance than ever in view of the special position that Japan occupies in international affairs on all fronts. As acknowledged by all countries, Japan is the only non-military superpower in the world, having earned that status by its own distinguished ways that transcend material concerns. By maintaining a humane face to its colossal economic, fiscal and technological wonders, Japan has proven that no nation needs to sacrifice its positive traditions and cherished values in the quest for spectacular industrial and technological achievements.

The Arab World is also yearning to develop itself in balanced and complementary ways with a view to maintaining its time-honoured traditions and values. That is why when the Arab countries speak of acquiring technology they have in mind not only mechanical technology but rather its complementary intellectual dimensions as well.

Seen against this backdrop, the significance of the Arab-Japanese dialogue acquires an added importance in view of the fact that the Arab World is seeking to re-align its relationship with the centres of power in the world on new criteria and basis. No wonder His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has characterised the evolving Japanese-Arab relations as a bridgehead on which the edifice of multi-dimensional inter-relations can be constructed worldwide. Likewise the Japanese-Arab dialogue acquires a more urgent character in the wake of the rapid disappearance of the traditional East-West confrontation and its substitution with the accentuation of the North-South rivalries on all fronts. In this latter context, there is no doubt that Japan occupies a special place with a view to depoliticising the North-South confrontations and accord them instead a human dimension. After all the developed and the developing countries shall forever remain neighbours and their collective welfare and interests will likewise continue to be intertwined and organically linked. The obvious choice of Japan by the Arab World to be the catalyst for a more peaceful and harmonious transformation in international relations is thus borne out by deep conviction and solid faith and trust in the new acquired role of Japan.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN dailies gave wide coverage of the King's speech delivered at the non-aligned summit conference in Belgrade. Al Ra'i daily for its part said that King Hussein has placed the world community in general and the Non-Aligned Movement in particular face to face with the facts about the situation in the Middle East, the Gulf region and Lebanon. The paper noted the King's reference to the situation in the occupied Arab lands where Israel is maintaining its occupation and exercising all forms of repression against the Palestinians. The King also referred to the tragedy in Lebanon where the people are encountering one tragedy after another, and the Gulf region which has not yet enjoyed normal peace and a lasting settlement following the eight year long war between Iraq and Iran, the paper noted. It said that such issues should be dealt with speedily if world peace and security is to be safeguarded. In his address the King also tackled the world economic situation and the widening gap between the rich industrialised nations and the Third World, the paper added. It said that the King has warned that this intolerable situation cannot be allowed to continue because it threatens peace and stability. King Hussein urged the Non-Aligned Movement to help find solutions for these problems as well as contribute towards improving health conditions and curtailing pollution in many parts of the world, the paper said. It said that King Hussein has drawn the world's attention to a host of issues and appealed to the non-aligned nations to work as a unit to find solutions.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticises the Non-Aligned Movement for failing to prove itself as a major world power after 28 years of existence. Fahd Al Feneh says that the Arabs from one fifth of the total volume of the movement and expect much to be done in the course of ending conflicts in their region and regaining peace. But he says, that the whole Non-Aligned Movement only represents the Third World of mostly poor countries which are one way or another linked economically or politically to the industrialised nations or the socialist countries of Eastern Europe and therefore their contribution towards solutions of world conflicts is very limited indeed. But the writer says, the movement has been established in order to exercise influence on either side of the opposing powers of the world and to create a stability in world politics — something which has not been achieved so far. Since the movement has discovered that it has only a light political weight it ought to direct its intention now to economic issues. It is regrettable to see the movement unable to agree even on a fixed programme for its political and economic moves and on matters to safeguard its own countries, says the writer. He notes that despite the setbacks and the shortcomings, the Non-Aligned Movement must remain united and serve as a forum where Third World nations can mobilise their efforts in the face of challenges represented by the numerous economic and political issues, the regional conflicts and the attitude of the industrialised nations.

Al Dustour daily dwelt in its editorial on the non-aligned summit meeting in Belgrade and quoted King Hussein's statements in which he urged the movement and the world community at large to speed up work for the establishment of peace in Lebanon, the Gulf and the Middle East. In reviewing the current world situation, the King has noted with satisfaction the tendency among nations of the world to end all forms of disputes and conflicts at the regional and international level, citing for example the situation in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Namibia and Cyprus, the paper said. It said while these issues are being solved to help safeguard world peace and security, the Middle East is still witnessing an unacceptable situation where Israel continues to occupy Arab land and deny the rights of the Palestinian people to their homeland. It is regrettable, said the paper, to see people in other areas trying to reach a lasting settlement for their conflicts while Palestine continues to witness atrocities and violations of human rights.

ECOLIGHT

Neutrality and superpower economics

PEOPLES of the world were last year quite optimistic that the superpowers have come closer to the point where regional conflicts would be resolved. The decision by the USSR to withdraw from Afghanistan was hailed as a good sign, ushering in an era of sobriety and economic rationality. The end of war activity in the Gulf was another encouraging sign. The resolution of wars, disputes, border clashes and troop mobilisation would be replaced by investments, technology transfer, debt settlement and a better international economic order.

This year, things are not looking as cheerful and promising. A close look at the grim faces of the different delegates to the Campuchea peace talks in Paris indicate that the war out there is far from ending. The conflict in southern Sudan is being influenced by the false feelings of victory which the southerners have developed after the show of leniency by the new Sudanese leaders. The Afghanistan war is still waging without any hope in the horizon. The war in Lebanon is escalating and the superpowers are resigned to the idea that the warring parties should fight it

out. The intifada in the West Bank and Gaza is receiving casual coverage and mediocre resolutions produced in a way not to embarrass Mr. Pickering when he abstains on behalf of the U.S. Add to that, the new conflict between Senegal and Mauritania in West Africa; the Turkish Muslim minority maltreatment in Bulgaria, and last but not least the new and ambiguous events in mainland China.

What is actually happening? Have the superpowers reached the stage of indifference as a result of the costly involvement in Third World disputes? Is it because each one of them is being too busy restructuring their economies because their external involvements were eroding these economies? Or is it a much more serious situation?

The world at large has grown accustomed to the fact that the superpowers play the role of arbiter. Some theories believe that the superpowers were resolving disputes originally created by them and by their rivalry to incorporate larger areas under their "influence zones. When the Third World countries ask for

neutrality they want superpowers to stop creating conflicts and not merely to cease working on their resolution. Otherwise, their current behaviour indicates that they are waging cheaper wars by proxy. Such wars are lucrative in terms of arms sales, and face-saving vis-a-vis critical oppositions at home.

The other interesting remark could deal with the funds that superpowers are willing to spend in certain areas. Funds spent against drug traffickers in Colombia or fishing aid to Poland to secure the success of its first non-Communist government can be understood within the American list of priorities. USSR's support of the Kabul government and its active role in mediation outside its traditional spheres of influence seem also fitting within their priorities.

Have the superpowers actually changed their tactics under economic pressure? I believe the same rivalry is still there, but it is taking on a different disguise. The current non-alignment summit should look into the matter with the jurisprudence it deserves.

By Galina Vromen
Reporter

AMSTERDAM — When 12 nature lovers painted "Greenpeace" on a rickety boat in 1971 and set sail in half U.S. underground nuclear arms tests on a Pacific Ocean island, it was considered eccentric.

Eighteen years and scores of dramatic stunts later, Greenpeace is a robust organisation at the forefront of environmental protection with a \$75 million annual budget, three million members and offices in 21 nations.

"Respectability worries me," said Steve Sawyer, executive director of Greenpeace International. "We have to be sure not to lose our cutting edge."

Greenpeace moved its headquarters from London to Amsterdam this summer. The change, prompted by less expensive office space, comes at a time when the organisation is changing directions.

With politicians rushing to show their "green" environmental credentials, Greenpeace's role is shifting from maverick to responsible monitor in the fight to conserve nature.

"Ten years ago, no one knew what PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) were. Now all you have to do is say, 'There's this ship with nasty things aboard it and people don't want it in their

port. We don't have to blockade it," he said.

"The dramatic actions we were once known for aren't always necessary these days to bring things to people's attention. Sometimes we can just point a finger and it's enough," said Sawyer.

The greater public awareness of pollution and environmental hazards is in part a tribute to the efforts of Greenpeace, which has skillfully used the media to advertise its cause.

An increasingly large part of Greenpeace's budget goes to lobbying governments, the European Community and international organisations to take measures to protect the environment — and the organisation now finds its ideas gain wide acceptance.

It has been a hard-won battle. Over the years, Greenpeace activists, often accompanied by cameras crews or reporters, have risked arrest and even death.

They have weaved their rubbery dinghies by whaling vessels to stop the harpoons of hunters, scaled industrial chimneys to draw attention to pollutants, chained themselves to nuclear waste dumping chutes, and sprayed baby seals with green dye to prevent them being killed for their white fur.

For years they have been a thorn to industrial polluters and governments testing nuclear weapons.



Just how much of a thorn became clear in July 1985, when the Greenpeace vessel Rainbow Warrior was blown up by French secret agents in New Zealand for protesting against French nuclear testing.

A photographer on board drowned when the boat sank. The attack only helped boost Greenpeace's fame.

But organisation has not grown complacent. "There are still a lot of things that need to be brought to people's attention," Sawyer said.

Greenpeace still carries out its dramatic operations — a completely revamped Rainbow Warrior is to sail to the Pacific.

But it is also trying to expand operations. It has begun making inroads in the Third World, setting up an office in Argentina in 1987 and Costa Rica in 1988. It hopes to create a branch in Brazil and open a Moscow office.

It still spends about 40 per cent of its funding on projects involving its seagoing vessels. But another 15 per cent of funding goes to lobbying and information campaigns and 10 per cent to research, usually farmed out to outside consultants.

Most recently, the organisation has decided to concentrate its efforts on preservation of the Antarctic and to pressing for nuclear free seas.

In August, it unsuccessfully tried to block testing of the U.S. Trident submarine.

"We decided to start a campaign on this issue in 1987 because it was a part of the arms race which was out of the public eye. It was not under international control and the scope for accidents is great," Sawyer explained.

"People have to realise that the INF (intermediate-range nuclear forces) treaty doesn't mean much if the missiles pulled out of Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom go on submarines," he said.

On the Antarctic, Greenpeace saw a chance to be a major actor in preserving humankind's last wilderness.

"The Antarctic needs to be saved from exploitation of its mineral reserves. We had a sense that perhaps we could get in and save it before it got screwed up by humans," Sawyer said.

The Antarctic has a major impact on the world's weather and its preservation is also important for doing base-line environmental impact studies, he explained.

Greenpeace has set up a base camp in the Antarctic — the only non-governmental group to do so — to monitor the area.

It also plans to intensify its activity in fighting pollution of the atmosphere. It continues in its more traditional fields — fighting for the preservation of sea animals and alerting the public to toxic chemicals and nuclear waste.

Sawyer is convinced that in the long run Greenpeace's message that people must change their ways to preserve the earth will get across.

"The environment has to rise to the number one issue on the world agenda. It's getting there," he said.

Sri Lankan rebels preach communism and puritanism

By Roger May
Reporter

COLOMBO — Rebels using terror tactics to overthrow Sri Lanka's government stand for a bizarre mix of Communist theory, puritanism and evocation of the country's Buddhist "Sinhala motherland."

The People's Liberation Front (JVP), accused by officials of killing more than 3,000 people during the past two years, is led by a bearded, Soviet-educated Marxist theoretician.

But its message to Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese population also includes strong criticism of Western influence and condemnation of Indian troops stationed on the island.

"The arrival of the Indian troops was an ideal plank for the JVP because they knew that most of the population was against it," said a political scientist in the capital, Colombo.

"The Indian troops are an occupation army. They are no good for Sri Lanka," said the Reverend Murtutuwewa Ananda, one of Sri Lanka's best-known Buddhist priests.

India sent some 45,000 troops to Sri Lanka to enforce a 1987 pact supposed to end a Tamil separatist rebellion in northern and eastern areas of the country.

Colombo set a July 29 for their withdrawal but some 42,000 remain and both countries have begun negotiating a fresh deadline. Sri Lanka suggesting the middle of this month and India next February.

Sri Lanka's history recounts many invasions by its powerful northern neighbour before the island was colonised successively by Portugal, the Netherlands and Britain.

The Marxism preached by JVP leader Rohana Wijeweera and its nationalist message has touched a vein of sympathy among young Sinhalese disillusioned with the country's often corrupt parliamentary politics.

But many of Sri Lanka's 16 million people now follow the organisation's demands out of sheer terror, diplomats and officials say.

"These people are nihilists. We have to meet violence with violence," said a senior government official.

He compared the JVP to Cambodia's Khmer Rouge, who have been accused of murdering hun-

dreds of thousands of people while implementing an extreme brand of Communism after seizing power in 1975.

The government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa says it is making headway in crushing the JVP which it claims is in the pay of unnamed foreign forces.

But diplomats and Sri Lankan residents say the violent tactics used by the police, army and unofficial vigilante squads may only bolster JVP support.

"The government has declared war on its own people," said a Western diplomat.

Travellers arriving in Colombo report seeing scores of bodies hurled by the roadside of floating down rivers.

"My friend was killed by security forces," said a Colombo taxi driver. "He was nothing to do with the JVP. This is only gaining support for them."

Government officials estimate the number of hard-core, armed JVP rebels at around 2,000. They say it also has some 5,000 part-time workers.

Some 3,000 JVP suspects have been detained in a massive nationwide security sweep during the past two months. Many of the detainees were released after questioning.

The JVP has brought Sri Lanka to a standstill several times this

year by using death threats to back strike calls. Bot JVP militants, who do not drink alcohol, have won praise for stamping out drug dealing, robbery and anti-social behaviour in Sri Lankan towns and villages.

A Colombo writer related how the JVP dealt with a drunk in a village in the north of the country.

"They told him out to drink once but he carried on. They told him a second time, but he still carried on. So they cut his lips with a knife and told the doctor not to treat him," he said.

"This man caused big trouble and the villagers were very happy."

Qadhafi's revolutionary ideals still alive

By Jonathan Wright
Reporter

TRIPOLI — After 20 years in power, the Libyan leader termed dangerously naive by neighbouring Egypt when he overthrew Libya's monarchy, has lost little of his revolutionary fervour.

Muammar Qadhafi, who as a 27-year-old captain led the September 1 military coup, is now a colonel well into middle age. But his passion for Arab unity, determination to eliminate Israel, and contempt for traditional forms of government appear unchanged.

He follows the same impulses with much the same naive enthusiasm which troubled his Egyptian mentors in 1969 and led to repeated conflict with the United States, Britain, Egypt and other countries.

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of his Fatah revolution on Friday, he promised continuing financial and ideological support for liberation movements until victory over imperialist forces.

"It was classic Qadhafi. He has his revolutionary ideals and they haven't changed," one diplomat said.

"He may be going through a pragmatic stage but there's nothing to justify saying he has changed beyond the point of no return. He's never gone back on anything he's said," commented another.

Unlike many successful revolutionaries, whose fervour turns to torpor as they age, Qadhafi has taken on new causes and widened his ambitions in the two decades since taking power.

From a stereotype Arab nationalist in 1969, he has evolved into an internationalist who ignores national frontiers and believes his theory of direct democracy will eventually sweep the world.

Western diplomats in Tripoli, on the lookout for pointers to trends in Qadhafi's thinking, say he may have adopted a conciliatory posture at home and abroad for the past two years but inside him the revolutionary zeal continues to burn.

Qadhafi last year relaxed travel restrictions, released hundreds of political prisoners and opened up the economy to some private



MUAMMAR QADHAFI trading borders with Tunisia to the west reopened in May 1988 and with Egypt to the east in June this year.

Setbacks in foreign adventures such as military defeat in Chad and failure of alleged Libyan involvement in clandestine operations abroad, which brought American bombers into action over Libya, do appear to have mellowed his relations with his neighbours and his attitude to the West.

He has forged an excellent relationship with Tunisia's new ruler, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, held a reconciliation meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Morocco in May and, on the eve of the 20th anniversary celebrations, moved closer to a settlement of Tripoli's dispute with Chad over the Aouzou strip on their border.

The recovery in oil prices this year eased the financial austerity of the mid-1980s and gave the government the resources to import more consumer goods, such as 90,000 cars and other vehicles ordered from Japan in the spring.

This has restored Qadhafi's domestic popularity.

"The country was about to explode with discontent two years ago. Now Qadhafi is about as secure as he has ever been," one diplomat said.

The only overt opposition to him is abroad and fragmented. Libyan dissidents in exile say life for them has not been so easy since Libya relations improved with Egypt, previously their main refuge.

A small Islamic fundamentalist movement exists inside the country but it has gone deep underground since a brief appearance in mosques in January and February.

"The authorities sat on them very hard and the best guess is that the leaders are in jail," said a diplomat.

Libyan revolutionary activity abroad has gone into a quiet phase but a U.S. State Department report this year cited Libyan support for some 30 "terrorist" groups around the world.

U.S. and British diplomats say their countries will not restore relations with Tripoli until they have conclusive evidence that Qadhafi has definitively called off such activity.

Libya, which hoped U.S. President George Bush would drop the antagonistic approach of President Reagan, may have a long wait.

"Some say Qadhafi is a new man and Libya a new country after the reforms. But I'm rather sceptical. A leopard does not change his spots and it won't be long before he gets into trouble again," said a Western ambassador.

"When it comes to ideology, Qadhafi doesn't budge. He could send an expeditionary force anywhere in the world, if he felt the cause was just."

LETTERS

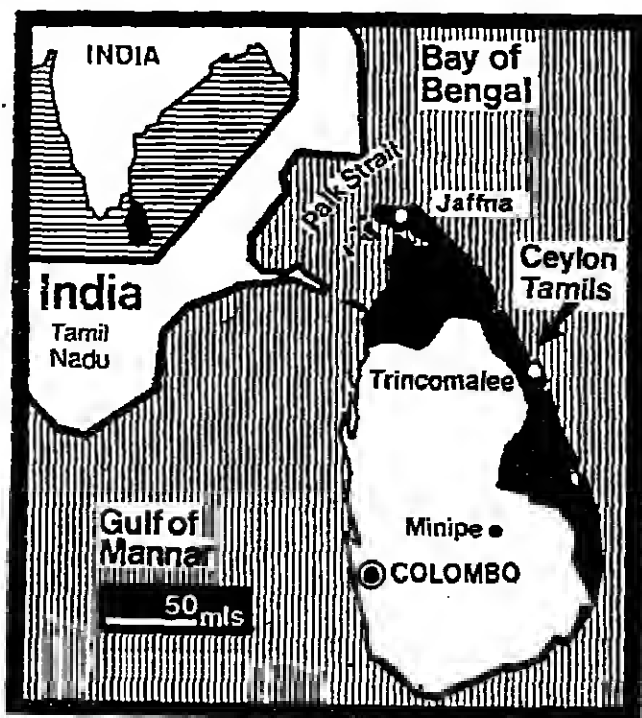
Austria's commitment

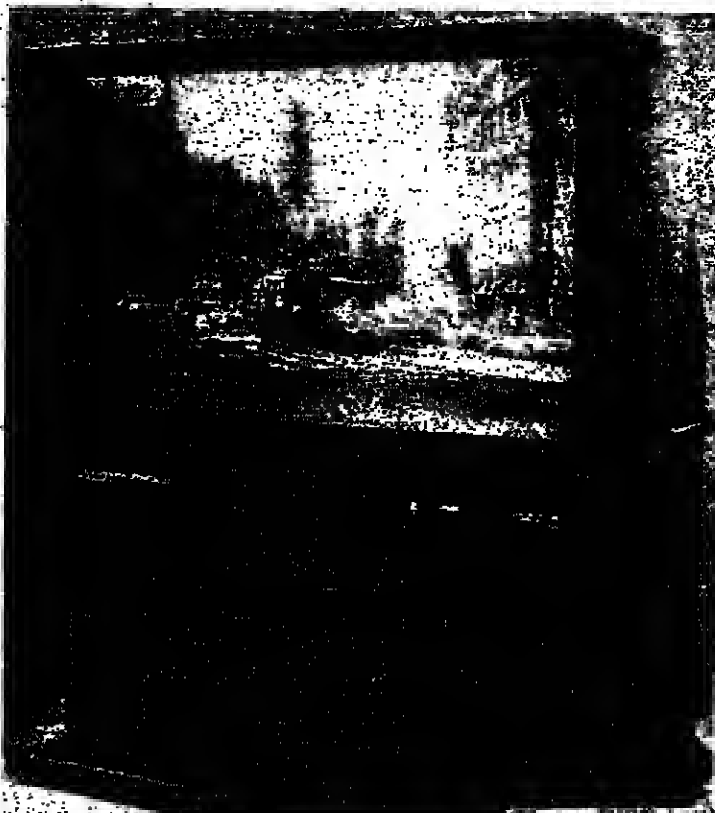
To the Editor:

REFERRING to your article on Austria's bid for EC membership taken from a German newspaper in Hamburg (Jordan Times, Sept. 5), I would like to clarify the following:

In its recent request for EC membership Austria has left no doubt that it has no intention to sacrifice its neutrality freely chosen in 1955 and which it considers as an important contribution to security, stability and collaboration in Europe for the sake of such membership. Contrary to the impression given by your article it is by no means an established fact that both aims are incompatible. Only coming negotiations will decide this crucial point.

Franz Farnberger
Austrian Ambassador





The German producer of special glass, Schott, requires this giant press in order to make glass components for colour TV picture tubes for the "high-definition system" HDTV.

The television of the future

By Helmut Nagelschmitt

BOON — The international race to set up the TV system of the future has started: clearer and more distinct and above all, larger pictures will be possible thanks to "High-Definition Television". The quality attained by cinema projectors is regarded as the yardstick. The sound quality too, is to be considerably improved.

The new system is intended to replace existing TV systems before the end of the century as Heinz Riesenhuber, the Federal Minister for Research and Technology announced in Bonn. The standards for the new high-definition television system — HDTV — are currently being developed in a major European joint project. Under the guidance of Bosch, Philips and Thomson, some 30 European firms and research institutes are engaged in it. The overall costs are expected to amount to more than 500 million DM. The governments of France, Great Britain, the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany are providing 40 to 50 per cent of this amount.

According to Riesenhuber, the 4-megabit storage technology mastered by the leading manufacturers of semi-conductors represents the prior requisite for the economic viability of the new TV system. If Europe were to disregard the development of systems of its own in this field, then it would have to depend on further developments in this key sector. The same applies to what is known as display technique. New technologies are being sought here which will facilitate the large-format reproduction of coloured moving pictures with great brightness and high contrast. The aim is to come up with a flat screen. German companies have already registered successes here. As governments are charged with determining standards and new markets in the HDTV sector can only be opened up via new standards, the following applies: "Who ever has the standards, also has the markets."

The introduction of the new TV system requires the setting up of standards for the entire studio, transmission and consumer sectors. The question of whether this succeeds or not, will in Riesenhuber's opinion, decide about the future of the European electronics industry of the 1990s. The branch anticipates a lot of business from the super TV system. The market is estimated to be worth around 500 billion DM worldwide. (IN-PRESS)

Anne and Mark to split; just another soap opera?

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

LONDON — All it would seem, was bliss at Buckingham Palace. Prince Charles and Diana emerged unscathed from a spate of rumours about their marriage. Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, are happily raising a baby. Prince Edward gave up military life and apparently found peace with a theatre company.

Queen Elizabeth II was the picture of grandmotherly contentment.

But now, suddenly, shocking headlines. Headstrong Princess Anne and her shy commoner husband are splitting up. Is the British royal family in trouble?

Not really. It has survived worse crises — only to grow in prestige and popularity. And compared with the scandals that beset some of their ancestors, the separation announced last Thursday of the queen's daughter from Capt. Mark Phillips is small potatoes.

"Many, many royal marriages have been very unhappy indeed," says Michelle Brown, curator of the royal Britain exhibition. "There have been lots of royal divorces in the past, and many people far more miserable than Capt. Phillips and Princess Anne seem to have been."

Like the unfortunate Sophia Dorothea, whose husband, George I, locked her in a castle for 37 years for being unfaithful to him in 1694.

Or, more recently, the drawn-out saga of Princess Margaret, the queen's younger sister, whose marriage to Lord Snowdon ended in divorce in 1978.

And then there was 19th-century George IV, whose attempts to divorce Caroline of Brunswick became a prolonged and disgraceful public spectacle.

Anne and Mark, who have two children, do not plan to divorce,



Princess Anne today

Buckingham Palace says.

While most newspapers ran the split on the front page Friday, the Independent ran just one paragraph on page 2. The Independent simply doesn't believe the royals matter. Others enjoy them as soap opera.

"No scriptwriter could wish for a better cast," the columnist Geoffrey Smith has written: Queen Elizabeth II as "everybody's favourite mum," Princess Margaret the "willful younger sister," Prince Philip "The cantankerous father," "interesting children (cheerful Charles, randy Andy, educated Edward and angular Anne), all sorts of in-laws (divine Diana, problem-girl Princess Michael), grandchildren galore..."

There is, however, genuine sympathy for Anne.

Her marriage in 1973 to Phillips, televised from Westminster Abbey, was dubbed a storybook romance, but rested mainly on a shared passion for horses, and marital strife has been rumoured for eight years.

Anne's short temper and caustic tongue earned her an unpopular image that only changed in the 1980s through her quiet, sustained and often courageous work on behalf of the world's

needy children.

She may never rival Princess Diana in looks, and as seventh in line to the throne she is unlikely to become Queen Anne. But she is blessed with wit, poise and intellect, and at 39 she is by far the most interesting of the British royals.

"We are very possessive about our royal family, and we were all, in a sense, guests at that fairy-tale wedding 15 years ago," the Times editorialised Friday. "The queen's daughter however has never been a fairy-tale princess, and the monarchy is the stronger for it."

Indeed, the line was taken by some newspapers that the marriage was a sham, and that its end came as a relief.

Other European countries also treasure their royals, and scandals are far fewer. Belgium hasn't had any problems since King Leopold III married a commoner in 1941 without his government's approval. Holland's Princess Irene scandalised Protestants by converting to Catholicism to marry a Spaniard, but her divorce 17 years later barely caused a ripple. The Swedish and Danish royal families are squeaky clean.

So, for the most part, is the British family. But when it does arise, divorce is always an emotional issue, from much-married Henry VIII four centuries ago to Edward VIII, who had to abdicate in 1936 to marry the twice-divorced American, Wallis Simpson.

"It was only since Queen Victoria and Prince Albert set up this wonderful sort of epitome of the perfect family that the pressure existed," curator Brown told London Broadcasting Corp. Radio.

"Before then, royal marriages had all the rough and tumble and all the problems of any other marriage and nobody tried to pretend otherwise."



Princess Anne, seventh in line to the British crown with her parents and brothers in 1953 (above) and 1965 (below).



Relations between parent and child are often strained. Such relations are an unnecessary evil.

Street children — reconstructing their reality

This is the first of a two part article on the rehabilitation of street children by Nur Sali.

AMMAN — At the traffic lights on Mecca Street three young boys are seen, with an armful of dustbin bags, approaching one car after another trying to get money in return. Smiles are painted on their faces when the boys have managed to rid themselves off of their dustbin bags, otherwise a determined look can be detected while they approach yet another driver. So it is, they spend their day implementing alternative psychological approaches according to different people. At days end, the boys collect their money and head back home for their parents to give them food as a reward for the good show of salesmanship. They do not have another alternative; for no money means no food.

Ibrahim and Ali, both sixteen year olds, have been on the streets selling these bags for five years. They have been away from school since then. They work out of sheer need to support their families and ultimately themselves due to pressure from their parents. They live in fear from the police, always running away, for if they get caught, they are placed in detention centres. If that were to happen they would be seen as "failures" in their parents eyes, according to Ali. Being could have even more disastrous effects on the children. According to Ibrahim "parents sometimes kick their children out of the house and make them sleep somewhere else."

Naef, who is only eight years old, was forced into the streets in a different manner. "My father died and I live alone with my mother. She is unable to work, therefore, I have to support her so we can both live." Naef is too young to get a legal job. Since the vast majority of the children are too young to get a job, they are left with few choices if they "need" to make a living.

"I make around JD 100 a month," says Naef, "and I give half to my mother, the other half I keep for myself for my necessities and the rest I try to save."

This problem of street children is increasing in Jordan. According to the Social Defence Department, it was estimated that there are about 1260 beggars from all age groups and around 30 per cent of these are children, similar to the cases of Ali, Ibrahim and Naef.

These children running around the streets while they should be in school has affected and is continuing to have an effect on the morality of the country. Although a number of committees and projects have been set up in order to help the children, there has been little success so far; for the most important obstacle is to pinpoint and analyse the core of the problem. Thus, a National Committee was set up by HRH Crown Prince Hassan with the involvement of social and educational agencies to analyse and formulate a strategy to tackle this problem, according to Dr. Sabri Rbeihat who is head of the Social Research Department.

Together with his colleagues, Rbeihat, came up with a project known as the PILOT project. It was started in November of last year and completed in March, 1989. "The aim of this project," explains Rbeihat, "is to reattach and recommit these street children to the family and to society." The PILOT project was taken to the voluntary society to build a rehabilitation centre for these unfortunate children. It enables for the restoration of social bond; the bond between children and society by helping internalise the Jordanian dream — to refine and make the country clean from the street children; to strengthen the belief of the child in the morality of the law; to get them involved with conventional activities and to provide expertise as well as to diagnose the problem and learn more about it.

The centre will study the case of each child as an individual, and according to the diagnosis the expertise will determine how to intervene: for with every child there is a different psychology behind him, a different cause. For instance, some just need to be sent to school, some children need reattachment to their homes, other children would need some sort of reassurance, while there are those who require financial support or to be assigned to foster parents owing to an unhealthy environment at home.

According to Rbeihat there are two main factors which lead the children to the streets. There are children who have been forced (by their parents or as in Naef's case) to collect a certain sum of money, while other children are driven to street life because they defy their parents orders. Problems between parent and child are not unusual, however, some are more serious than others. Overcrowded living conditions could create a violent home atmosphere on a daily basis. To escape the often violent tension at home, the child frequently heads for the streets, because he has nowhere else to go.

"The law towards street children is indecisive", says Rbeihat. It has not yet been agreed as to whether the child should join the labour force or not, for the authorities seem to think that as long as the child does not violate the law then why not let him earn his living. In the opinion of Rbeihat, no committees or centres will be able to eliminate the beggars unless they are able to define and point out where the problem lies thus responding to this problem "logically and not by preaching". At the detention centres, the children are clothed and fed, after a certain period they are released. Authorities think this will teach the kids not to beg again, but Rbeihat explains that they do not try to change the children. The rehabilitation centre (PILOT project) is aimed at precisely that: "to reconstruct reality for the kids."

JORDAN TELEVISION CHANNEL 2

ON WEDNESDAY Jordan Television Channel 2 will present YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU at 8:30 p.m. This week's episode is entitled Our family feud. At 9:10 the evening continues with the weekly series DOCTOR, this week's episode is entitled Battle Line. After the news at 10:30, the Wednesday night bestseller series MASTER OF THE GAME continues. In this episode McGregor's daughter remains the centre of attention... when she decides to get married. On Thursday channel 2 begins the evening with the COSBY SHOW at 8:30 and continues at 9:10 with MAX HEADROOM ACADEMY, in this continuing science fiction story of computers — Carter discovers that a young students school is tampering with the city's computer systems... and decides to do something about it. The evening's feature film at 10:30 is entitled HONEY MOON WITH FEAR and stars Joan Collins, Judy Season and Ralf Bates. On Friday night at 9:10 ADDERLEY is back in an episode entitled Run to Darkness, in which he is sent to East Berlin on another secret mission. The new series the Calybs at 10:30 is followed by another episode of Three's Company in which Jack finds employment in a small restaurant.

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Jordan Times'
JORDAN MARKET PLACE

'Give Lebanese peace, you will see miracles'

BEIRUT (R) — Whoever is winning the latest battle of Beirut, Lebanon's long-resilient economy is losing.

"It is testing our will to survive and preserve our way of life," says Fouad Abi Saleh, president of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists. "It is a great trial, which we are not winning in an economic sense."

After 14 years of civil war, it may seem miraculous that Lebanon has an economy at all.

But light industry — garments, leather goods, food, plastics, furniture and jewellery — sprang up surprisingly to replace the banking, finance and tourism killed off by the first few years of fighting.

"Now factories nationwide are suffering," said Abi Saleh.

Abi Saleh's association covers all Lebanon. "We have made it a point of honour not to admit that the political situation should split us in any way," he said.

He estimates that factory production has dropped by 75 per

cent in the east Beirut.

Yet local bankers are optimistic on medium-term trends.

"We are opening letters of credit, some extending six months or more, for importers under threat of bombing. It seems they have hope," said a bank executive who declined to be named.

"Customers are still saving. I think 1989 will be a good year for the bank in spite of everything. The will to survive is still strong. Lebanon will never collapse."

A factor which helped businessmen survive this long was the dramatic plunge of the exchange rate since the mid-1980s which made Lebanese products cheap abroad.

In July 1984 the pound was still worth more than 20 U.S. cents. Last week it was 534 to the dollar.

Gabriel Attallah, general manager of Transorient Bank, said import/export activity, which his

bank finances, had dropped by two-thirds during the shelling and blockade of the past five months.

"But we still issue letters of credit to importers — the country must live," he emphasised.

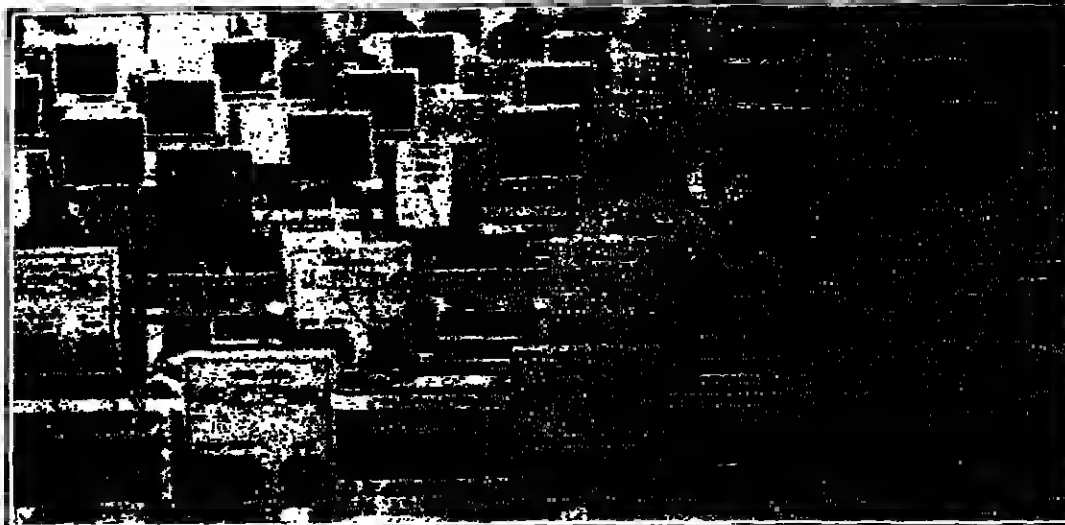
Although gunners shell the coastline nightly, Attallah says the fall in imports is caused mainly by reduced buying power.

"When people spend all their evenings in the shelter, why should they buy suits and dresses for parties? We need peace. Give them peace and in one or two months you will see miracles."

Abi Saleh said production could climb to 80 per cent of its previous level if shelling stopped and the blockade were lifted to allow supplies of fuel, raw materials, semi-finished goods and spare parts.

But the economy is also losing long-term ground as industrialists fail to modernise or diversify.

"We have to recuperate in investing before we see any blooming," Abi Saleh said. "Our country will lack credibility for some time."



Making computers at an Italian factory.

Olivetti reports lower profit

IVREA, Italy (R) — Italian computer giant Olivetti suffered a 40 per cent fall in pre-tax profits in the first half of 1989 but expects full-year results to be in line with 1988, group president Carlo De Benedetti has said.

He was addressing an extraordinary shareholders' meeting here which approved a 1.2 trillion lire (\$860 million) capital increase to finance the company's growth.

Ing. C. Olivetti E. C. Spa's

lower profits partly reflected a major restructuring which took effect in January, dividing the group into three divisions — systems and networks, office equipment and information services.

Olivetti is the European market leader in information technology, excluding data switching systems, and ranks second in the European personal computer market behind International Business Machines Corp of the United States.

"The restructuring is taking longer than expected... they obviously had much higher restructuring costs and financial charges," Francesca Lolli, Italian analyst at London brokers Hoare Govett, said. He described the half-year results as below market expectations.

Group pre-tax profit for the first half of the year fell to 102.6

billion lire (\$73 million) from 171.3 billion lire (\$122 million) a year earlier. Six-month turnover was 3.94 trillion lire (\$2.81 billion) against 3.62 trillion (\$2.58 billion).

But De Benedetti said full-year profits should match 1988 levels, when the group reported a net profit of 356.2 billion lire (\$254 million) and predicted sales would rise 12 per cent to 9.5 trillion lire (\$6.8 billion) this year.

"This will consolidate Olivetti's leadership in the European market," De Benedetti said. His holding Compagnie Industriale Riunita SPA (CIR) recently boosted its stake in Olivetti to more than 40 per cent following its acquisition of the 22 per cent stake held by American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT and T).

UNCTAD plays down devaluation drug

GENEVA (R) — Slashing debt would give poor nations more relief from their perennial economic woes than such traditional remedies as currency devaluations, the United Nations said Wednesday.

The U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) argued in its annual report that it was hard for the least-developed countries (LDCs) to extricate themselves from heavy debt while at the same time trying to improve their economies.

In any case, steps such as devaluations or limiting demand for goods, which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) often imposes as conditions for further aid, do not consistently improve the economies of the target countries, it said.

"The lack of any consistent relationship between the existence of adjustment programmes and economic performance as reflected in growth, the current account balance and inflation,

leaves open the question of the adequacy of these programmes for the LDCs," UNCTAD Secretary-General Kenneth Daddo wrote.

Instead, he suggested in his introduction to the report that the world community should concentrate more on reducing debt.

Governments should provide inducements to or impose sanctions of commercial banks to encourage them to cut the debt burden of the LDCs, he added.

A year ago UNCTAD proposed slashing 30 per cent from the \$300 billion owed by the 15 most heavily indebted developing countries. In March U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady issued his proposals for a strengthened debt strategy.

Wednesday's UNCTAD report found that this "new thinking on debt represents significant and irreversible progress," but urged more action.

"Although the debt strategy is better oriented... implementation of the new approach is deficient

and is not moving far enough," UNCTAD money and finance director Roger Lawrence told a news conference in Geneva.

The report said about \$30 billion was potentially available from the IMF, the World Bank and the Japanese government to help reduce principal or interest payments.

Actual use was unlikely to approach that figure but, even if it did, it would not be nearly enough, partly because a reduction in the claims of banks would be financed by increased debt to the IMF, World Bank and Japan, the report added.

"Interest payments would fall by about 15 per cent for the highly indebted countries and principal by less than 20 per cent. The minimum needed, however, is about double these figures, as pointed out in last year's trade and development report," it said.

It predicted a slackening in world economic activity this year and next, concentrated in regions which at present were doing well,

especially North America.

"The most troubling aspect of the outlook for the near future is, however, the unlikelihood of any significant improvement, but rather a worsening, in growth performance in Africa and Latin America," Lawrence said.

Real growth in gross domestic product (GDP) — a broad measure of the economy — in Africa is expected to average roughly the same 2.6 per cent this year as in 1988.

Latin American GDP growth is expected to decline further from last year's rate of 0.8 per cent, with inflation rising.

Asian countries would continue to outperform the rest of the world, but a shift to higher output for home consumption could dampen the growth of East Asian exporters of manufactured goods.

It said primary commodities prices, important to most LDCs, would probably rise 5.1 per cent in 1989 after a 13.8 per cent rise in 1988. The figures exclude crude oil.

U.S. promises attack on trade problems

TOKYO (R) — The United States promised Japan Tuesday it would attack its deep-rooted economic problems quickly, but failed to win a similar assurance from Tokyo.

"We agreed with a great deal of the suggestions of our Japanese colleagues," U.S.

under-secretary of state Richard McCormack told reporters after two days of high-level talks.

"We would hope that they would entertain our... proposals with the same seriousness," he noted.

Japanese ministers sounded less conciliatory.

"Bilateral talks like this are not meeting where Japan follows what the United States says," Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters.

"Washington is more responsible for the U.S.-Japan trade imbalance than Tokyo," Economic Planning Minister Sumiko Takahara added.

The talks, called the structural impediments initiative, were proposed by Washington after countless negotiations on Japanese import barriers and big changes in currency rates failed to cut the \$50 billion bilateral trade gap.

The talks were the first of a series planned over the next nine months aimed at getting at the

root of the problem.

At Tuesday's session, Japan urged the United States to take a number of steps to become more competitive — promote exports, do away with needless government regulations, expand manufacturing capacity and improve training.

U.S. officials said Washington needed quick results from the talks.

"It is absolutely essential we have results," Commerce Department Under-Secretary Michael Farren said. "They must

have some very specific impact on the trade imbalance."

The Bush administration is under increasing pressure from the Democrat-majority Congress for action to cut the gap. But domestic politics argue against quick action by Japan.

With the ruling Liberal Democratic Party floundering in the polls and a general election due by next summer, this is hardly the time for the government to advocate radical change. Japanese officials have said.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, September 5, 1989 Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	606.6	612.6
Pound Sterling	942.4	951.8
Deutschemark	306.6	309.7
Swiss franc	355.0	358.6
French franc	90.9	91.8
Japanese yen (for 100)	415.0	419.2
Dutch guilder	272.1	274.8
Swedish crown	90.9	91.8
Italian lire (for 100)	42.8	43.2
Belgian franc (for 10)	146.7	148.2

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Poland raises cigarette prices

WARSAW (R) — Cigarette prices went up by an average of 75 per cent in Poland Monday because of rising production costs, the official PAP news agency said. The cheapest cigarettes cost 180 zloties (17 cents) for a packet of 20, while the major luxury brand retails at 650 zloties (62 cents), a hefty price in a country where many people earn under \$5 a day. Cigarettes have been in short supply for some months and long queues have been forming for the rare deliveries.

Iran seeks to rebuild tourism

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran is seeking to revive its once flourishing tourist industry and expects to organise visits by tourists from several countries in the next few months, the country's deputy tourism minister has said. The official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Taha Abdekhodae as saying that Iranian travel agencies will organise the trips. He said this was now possible since last year's ceasefire in the eight-year war with Iraq. The agency reported last month that hundreds of Japanese tourists had visited Iran since May. They were the first foreigners to take package tour vacations in the country since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. During the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's reign, Iran had a thriving tourist industry. But the transport industry magazine, Sanat Hamlo Naqi, said that strict immigration, security and customs formalities at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport were "enough to ruin the whole trip". The monthly magazine quoted Japanese tourists as saying they would not visit Iran again because of the difficulties encountered entering and leaving Mehrabad. Travellers using the airport complain they are delayed for hours by rigorous controls.

Bloomingdale's to open shops in USSR

MOSCOW (AP) — Bloomingdale's, which is selling Soviet goods in its New York department store, plans to open two shops in Moscow next year, Soviet newspapers have reported. The upscale Lexington Avenue store, with branches throughout the United States, began selling Soviet rye bread last May and expanded its inventory to include Soviet-made watches, clothes, cookies and dry toast, the Communist Party newspaper, Pravda, said in a brief report. Another newspaper, Moscow Pravda, said a letter of intent has been signed for the establishment of a joint business venture between Bloomingdale's and Moscow city council authorities, paving the way for the New York-based enterprise to open shops in the Soviet capital. "The first two stores are supposed to open in Moscow by January," the newspaper said.

World leaders air views on economy, environment

BELGRADE (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Monday proposed creating an \$18 billion a year international environment fund, highlighting growing concern at the Non-Aligned summit over the pollution of the atmosphere.

Speaking on the second day of the summit, Gandhi said the proposed planet protection fund would come under U.N. auspices and develop environment-friendly technologies which would be given free to members.

He estimated that if members contributed one thousandth of their gross domestic product the fund would receive \$18 billion a year. Both rich and poor countries could receive the technologies, but the poorest would not have to contribute.

"Such a fund would enable those with the awareness and determination to conserve the environment to actually succeed in doing so," Gandhi told delegates from the 102 Non-Aligned nations.

With the four-day summit focussing hard on economic themes, Nigeria proposed a three-pronged approach to lifting the Third World's debt burden, estimated at \$1.3 trillion.

Nigerian proposals

Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida said debtor nations were showing courage in restructuring their economies but needed understanding policies from their creditors.

He proposed that:

— All official government-to-government debt be cancelled.

— Repayments to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank be eased by giving debtors new soft loans.

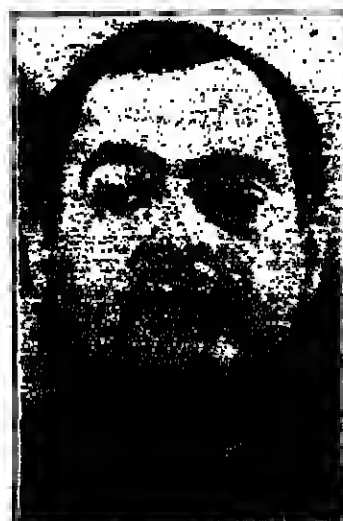
Debts to commercial banks be bought at discounts of up to 80 per cent by a new agency set up under the IMF and World Bank.

In a further initiative, Peru announced that it and 10 other countries had set up an informal group to put across the Third World viewpoint on debt, trade, monetary stability and other economic problems.

Peruvian officials said the group was launched at a breakfast hosted by President Alan Garcia, and would fulfil a role similar to that of the Group of Seven leading industrial non-communist countries.

Peru, Yugoslavia, Algeria, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, India, Egypt, Argentina, Nigeria and Senegal were members of the group, they said.

The Indian prime minister's environment plan was the most substantial contribution on the



Rajiv Gandhi

theme at the summit so far. Several previous speakers have raised the topic, though they have differed on the extent to which the rich countries are responsible for clearing up the mess created throughout the world by smokestack industries and land abuse.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.5400/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1830/40	Canadian dollar
	1.9900/07	Deutschemark
	2.2298/2405	Dutch guilders
	1.7175/83	Swiss francs
	41.59/62	Belgian francs
	6.7050/100	French francs
	1425/1426	Italian lire
	147.05/15	Japanese yen
	6.7000/50	Swedish crowns
	7.2230/80	Norwegian crowns
	7.7150/7200	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	358.10/358.60	U.S. dollars

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Joe Piscopo
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WISE GUYS

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Cinema **ALJOUH** Tel: 675571

Clint Eastwood
in
DIRTY HARRY IN THE DEAD POOL

Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

Mohammad Subhi & Sabrin
in
AGENT NUMBER 13
(Arabic)

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 5:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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Maradona top prize for French star collector Tapie

By Francois Thomsen
Reuters

PARIS — French millionaire Bernard Tapie, a professional collector of sports heroes, will achieve the marketing coup of his career if he manages to sign errant soccer star Diego Maradona.

"I'm a stubborn guy and when I've got something into my head, I don't give up," the 44-year-old Marseille soccer club chairman said in a recent newspaper interview.

For the last three months one idea has been on his mind — adding the man who is arguably the world's best player to the international line-up he hopes will bring the European Cup to France for the first time.

England's Chris Waddle, Brazil's Carlos Mozzer and Uruguay's Enzo Francescoli have already been recruited to the new-look Marseille.

It remains to be seen whether the truculent Napoli midfielder, who threatened to throw his contract at his current team's president before returning to Italy on Monday, will accept a \$4-million offer.

French football federation rules specify that the deadline for transfers to the French league is November 24. UEFA regulations would make the Argentine World

Cup captain ineligible for the European Cup before March.

In addition, Marseille already have their full quota of foreign players and would have to get rid of one, probably Francescoli, if they wanted to recruit Maradona.

Tapie is well aware of the tactical problems.

"The situation is clear. Maradona doesn't want to play for Napoli any more. He is ready to come to Marseille. Napoli won't hear of it. For weeks and weeks we've been stuck in this situation," he said.

But Tapie appears convinced he will get Maradona. "The situation between Marseille and Maradona has been settled for a long time now — I think we will end his soccer career at Marseille," he said.

Maradona would be the latest in a series of big sporting names who have been assiduously courted and signed by the ebullient businessman.

Tapie, who enjoyed a brief career as a rock singer in the 1960s, has managed to combine his role as a Socialist-backed deputy for Marseille with his position as head of a big business empire.

He ventured into sport in 1984, setting up a cycling team which boasted French cycling hero Bernard Hinault and American Greg Lemond.

Tapie got the riders he wanted by offering prices unheard of in the cycling world, until then a poor man's sport. It was a move that helped push cycling into a new competitive sphere and turned Hinault and Lemond into millionaires.

Tapie profited from free advertising by naming the team after his line of diet products.

Two years later Tapie ventured into the risky world of soccer. But he felt the soccer-mad southern city of Marseille, with minimum attendances of 25,000, was a sure bet.

He even ordered a poll, asking the Mediterranean port inhabitants what was their main preoccupation in life. "The team's future," was the answer.

In 1988 he made a sound financial investment by persuading young American tennis player Andre Agassi to sign an exclusive contract with his latest acquisition — racket company Donnay, struggling after the retirement of its most famous customer, Swedish former Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg.

That season marked a triple triumph for Tapie. He was elected deputy for Marseille in the summer's general elections and Marseille completed the French league and cup double.

Tapie has his own sporting credentials. He is a keen yachtsman and has tried, but failed, to break the world record for a transatlantic crossing in his yacht Phoebe.



Diego Maradona talking to reporters after storming out of a flight bound to Madrid last Friday

Diego Maradona finally in Italy

ROME (R) — Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona finally returned to Italy on Monday for a showdown with his Napoli club after a controversial, extended holiday in Argentina.

More than 120 photographers, reporters and television crew mobbed the Argentine World Cup captain when he arrived at Rome airport following weeks of speculation about his soccer future.

He said he was going to speak to Napoli President Corrado Ferlaino "to see what solution we can find to this situation."

But Maradona, 28, who said in Argentina last week that he intended to "throw" his contract at Ferlaino, said he was prepared for a stormy reception.

"I never expected a good welcome. I still expect a bad one. After I speak to Ferlaino, we will see."

Maradona, sporting a beard, first left the plane and got straight into a white Mercedes car parked on the tarmac in an attempt to avoid the hordes of reporters waiting for him.

But police persuaded him to enter the airport terminal for an impromptu news conference in which he accused Napoli officials

of failing to defend him against the press.

He then drove off in the car and was thought to be headed straight for Naples.

Asked why he had stayed in Argentina past the August 16 agreed date for returning to the club he first joined in 1984, he replied:

"I thought that 15 days extra would not cancel out five years of training. But it seems that these 15 days count more than five years."

Maradona postponed his return to Italy at least four times, claiming at one stage that there was a plot against him in the southern Italian city. Local police and the club said there was no evidence of this.

"Particularly regarding what has appeared in the papers about Maradona — the mafia, drugs, all that — Napoli has never defended me," he said.

Maradona, who enjoyed the status of a demi-god after bringing Napoli their first ever European and Italian league victories, is bound to the first division club until 1993.

But in confused and often contradictory statements from Argentina over the past two

weeks, he has appeared determined to break with Napoli.

Napoli, who have largely maintained a dignified silence over the past month, say Maradona will either play for the southern Italian club or for no-one.

The UEFA cup holders have begun disciplinary action against Maradona, filed a claim for damages and moved to cancel a publicity contract because of his failure to join the squad in time for the August 27 start of the new season.

They have also threatened to ask soccer's world governing body FIFA to punish the Argentine World Cup captain by excluding him from the 1990 World Cup finals.

Maradona said on Monday he was returning to Naples "with the same feeling as always."

"Nothing has changed for me but maybe something has changed in the image of Maradona, in the way people want to understand it, or the picture they wanted to give to people," he added.

Despite his absence, Napoli have won both their opening matches in the Italian league and are top of the standings.

Borg weds Italian pop singer

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Former Swedish tennis star Bjorn Borg married Italian pop singer Loreana Berte at Milan's city hall on Monday, a municipal spokesman reported.

The five-minute ceremony was preceded by a brawl between the couple's private security guards and reporters and photographers who were barred from the ceremony. An Italian weekly magazine had been given exclusive rights to the story.

The ceremony was performed by Milan's mayor, Paolo Pillitteri. Sources said fewer than 20 guests attended.

Gilberto Lomaglio, the mayor's assistant, said a brief party followed.

Borg, 32, a five-time Wimbledon champion, had been living with the dark-haired, 38-year-old singer in this northern city since last year. Their romance was occasionally stormy, according to reports in the Italian and Swedish media.

Last February Borg was hospitalized in Milan and had his stomach pumped in what had been

reported as a possible suicide attempt. The player denied trying to kill himself.

Borg, who retired from professional tennis several years ago while still ranked among the top players in the world, wore a blue suit with white tie. Berte donned a pink satin dress.

Borg and Berte arrived at the city hall in a hattering rain, he in a luxury Alfa Romeo and she in a Lancia Thema.

Borg was married previously to Romanian-born tennis player Mariana Simionescu. After divorcing her, the Swede had a child by his long-time companion Janike Bjorling.

Italian magazines first reported a romance between Borg and Berte in summer last year.

Berte is one of Italy's best known pop singers and has occasionally turned up in Italian movies. She was previously married to industrialist Roberto Berger.

Friends said the couple planned a honeymoon, but said the location was secret.

American Baseball results

The Associated Press

American League East Division

	W	L	PCT	GB	L10 Streak	Home	Away
Toronto	75	63	.543	—	2-8-2 won 1	40-32	35-31
Baltimore	74	64	.536	1	2-6-4 won 1	40-28	34-36
Boston	70	68	.507	5	2-7-3 won 1	38-33	32-35
Milwaukee	68	71	.489	7.5	3-7 lost 2	40-32	28-39
Cleveland	63	74	.460	11.5	2-8 lost 4	34-33	29-41
New York	63	76	.453	12.5	5-5 won 5	37-36	6-40
Detroit	51	89	.364	25	4-6 won 4	33-37	18-52

West Division

	W	L	PCT	GB	L10 Streak	Home	Away
Oakland	83	55	.601	—	5-5 lost 1	44-23	39-32
Kansas City	80	57	.584	2.5	2-7-4 won 1	47-20	33-37
California	78	59	.569	4.5	2-8 lost 5	44-23	34-36
Texas	65	65	.519	11.5	4-6 won 1	37-30	33-35
Minnesota	70	68	.504	13.5	2-6-4 won 1	39-29	30-39
Seattle	61	75	.449	21	4-6 won 1	33-33	28-42
Chicago	58	79	.423	24.5	5-5 lost 1	30-38	25-41

National League East Division

	W	L	PCT	GB	L10 Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	77	60	.562	—	2-6-4 won 1	38-30	39-30
St. Louis	75	61	.551	1.5	2-7-4 won 1	41-28	34-33
Montreal	73	64	.533	4	2-4 lost 1	39-29	34-35
New York	72	64	.529	4.5	3-7 lost 4	45-24	37-40
Pittsburgh	60	76	.441	16.5	2-5-3 won 2	31-36	29-40
Philadelphia	54	82	.397	22.5	2-3-7 lost 5	30-37	24-45

West Division

	W	L	PCT	GB	L10 Streak	Home	Away
San Francisco	79	58	.577	—	4-4 won 5	44-24	35-34
Houston	72	65	.526	7	3-7 lost 3	39-31	33-34
San Diego	72	65	.526	7	2-9-1 won 4	38-30	34-35
Cincinnati	66	71	.482	13	5-5 lost 2	33-36	33-35
Los Angeles	65	72	.474	14	5-5 won 1	35-33	30-39
Atlanta	55	82	.401	24	4-6 lost 1	30-39	25-43

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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LOGICAL DEFENSE

Neither vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH

♠ 6 3 2

♥ 7 5 3

♦ 10 9

♣ A Q 4 3

WEST

♠ A K J 9 8

♥ 5 2

♦ K 10 9

♣ J 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 7 4

♥ Q

♦ K Q 8 7 2

♣ K J 5

The bidding:

North - East - South - West

Pass - Pass - 1 C - DM

Pass - Pass - Pass - 1 S

2 C - Pass - 2 NT - Pass -

Pass - Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Here's a tip that will win you many points: On defense, when you know that partner has little or nothing, but you need to find him with a point or two, assign him the weakest holding that will help your cause, and defend accordingly.

This hand was dealt in a national pair championship, which accounts for the third-hand opening bid. All rubber bridge or team play, we would suggest that South pass his aceless wonder which includes a bare queen. East left it to his partner to bail himself out, and the rest of the auction was natural.

West led the ace of spades. Against a no trump contract, that

requests partner to unblock the queen if he holds it, otherwise to give cover. Therefore, East started an ace with the five to show an even number in the suit.

It became vital to get East on lead for a spade through declarer's holding. The most West could hope to find in his partner's hand was 1 or 2 points, so the minor suits offered no hope of an entry. It would have to come from the heart suit.

It might seem that the shift to a low heart was called for. But South did not pass his partner's two hearts, which had to show at least a five-card suit, so he could have no more than two hearts. Rather than hope that his partner held the queen of hearts, West worked out a defense that would cater to the possibility of partner having no more than the jack. He shifted to the king of hearts!

When that panned the bare queen, declarer was a dead duck. There was no way to prevent East from gaining the lead with the jack of hearts, and the defenders were able to collect three spade tricks, two hearts and the ace of diamonds. Going plus 50 was worth a ton of matchpoints for East-West.

Available for a limited time as a special offer is a two-for-one package of DOUBLES booklets.

For your copies send \$3 to "GOREN DOUBLES," care this newspaper, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426. Make checks payable to "Newspaperbooks."

Italy mourns Scirea

ROME (R) — Italy Monday paid tribute to World Cup soccer hero, Gaetano Scirea, who was killed in a car crash in Poland on Sunday after a career which brought him almost every football trophy there is to win.

Scirea, 36, who retired from competitive football in May 1988 after earning 78 caps in 14 years with first division Juventus, was in Poland on a scouting mission for the northern club who had retained him as assistant manager.

The Italian soccer federation ordered a minute's silence before league matches to be played on Wednesday and President Francesco Cossiga sent a telegram of condolence to Scirea's family joining messages from hundreds of soccer fans and players.

Scirea played in the Italian side which beat West Germany in the 1982 World Cup and was also a member of Italy's squad in the 1978 and 1986 tournaments.

During his years as a defender with Turin-based Juventus, the club won seven league titles, two Italian cups, the UEFA Cup, Cup Winners' Cup and European Cup.

Fellow players remembered him as a quiet, modest man and a gentleman both on and off the field.

"He hadn't a single enemy. He was a unique person," Juventus President Giampiero Boniperti said.

Johnson case involves image

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Concern for the image of track and field led the sport's leaders to urge that Ben Johnson be stripped of his world records because of drug use.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation's policy making council said Monday that any athlete admitting under oath or in writing to drug use should be thrown out of the record books.

Johnson was not mentioned by name in the proposal, which must be approved by a majority of the 184-member IAAF congress this week. But he is the only world record-holder who has confessed to using illegal performance enhancers, and the federation's medical chief said that was as good a reason as any to test to take away his records in the 100 metres and the indoor 60 metres.

"What we saw happening was that there were other ways of assessing drug use than a positive sample," Arne Ljungqvist, the medical official, said. "We have

to do it. Otherwise, we lose our credibility, the sport's credibility."

The 23-member council voted overwhelmingly to strip records, but said it needed more study on whether similar action should be taken on world, regional and national championships and medals.

That means that while Johnson could lose his records of 9.83 seconds in the 100 and 6.41 seconds in the 60, he would retain the titles he won with them at the world outdoor and indoor championships in 1987.

If Johnson is stripped of the records, and IAAF leaders said they were confident the measure would pass, the marks would go to two Americans, Carl Lewis in the 100, at 9.92 seconds, and Lee McRae in the 60, at 6.50 seconds. It would be Lewis' first individual world record, although he holds others as a member of relay teams.

The Athletics Congress, U.S. track's governing body, was expected to support the record-stripping proposal on the floor.

"Of course we will do it for Carl," said TAC President Frank Greenberg. "We are fighting for the guy. We'll fight to the max."

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If Johnson is stripped of the

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I went camping once and hated it. A farsighted bear tried to hibernate in my left nostril."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FLOTY

CIKHT

TASSID

LAPRIL



WHAT HE GOT AS A RESULT OF CARELESS DRIVING.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprising answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

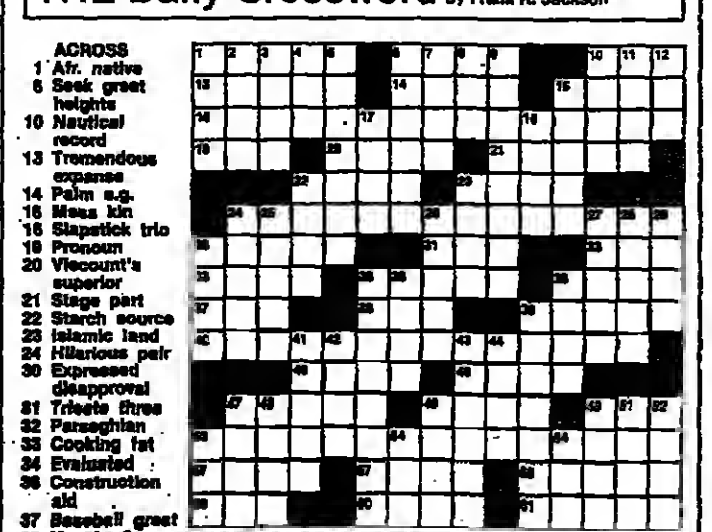
Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SOAPY MAJVE FROTHY TRIPLE

Answer: The younger generation always seems more outrageous when one is no longer this A PART OF IT

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: 1. Afr. native

2 Across: 2. Seek great heights

3 Across: 3. Nautilus record

4 Across: 4. Tremendous expense

5 Across: 5. Palm s.p.

6 Across: 6. Meas. km

7 Across: 7. Slapstick trio

8 Across: 8. Precious

9 Across: 9. Vicount's superior

10 Across: 10. Stage part

11 Across: 11. Slitth source

12 Across: 12. Islamic land

13 Across: 13. Hilarious pair

14 Across: 14. Expressive disapproval

15 Across: 15. Trieste three

16 Across: 16. Panagiotis

17 Across: 17. Cooking fat

18 Across: 18. Evaluated

19 Across: 19. Construction aid

20 Across: 20. Baseball great

21 Across: 21. He Massenet

22 Across: 22. Noted poet

23 Across: 23. name

Mass strike in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Tens of thousands of black workers and students stayed away from jobs and schools Tuesday in a nationwide protest on the eve of South Africa's parliamentary elections, which exclude the black majority.

"In the big unionised companies the stayaway is about 100 per cent. I would say tens of thousands have supported the protest," said a researcher at the independent Labour Monitoring Group, a team of academics assessing the protest.

But in the industrial heartland in Transvaal province support was patchy for the protest that is part of a wider defiance campaign against apartheid and elections that exclude 80 per cent of the population.

Wednesday's polls are the severest test of white support for the ruling National Party (NP) since it swept to power in 1948 on a platform of rigid race segregation.

While the NP under its new leader F.W. de Klerk promises to give the black majority a say in national government, the main opposition Conservative Party (CP) wants to revive apartheid, and the Democratic Party wants to end all race discrimination.

Wednesday's voting is for three houses of parliament — the most powerful one for the country's five million whites, and others representing the three million coloureds (mixed race) and near-

ly one million Asians.

While the election is almost certain to return the ruling NP to power, the Conservative's prospects of making large gains rose when a row erupted within the NP over de Klerk's Aug. 28 talks in Zambia with President Kenneth Kaunda.

The Conservatives want to divide the country into race-based mini-states, with the bulk of the land for whites. They would halt Namibia's independence plan and ban growing contacts between whites and African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas.

Leftist black leaders have denounced the elections and urged workers and students to stay home on Tuesday and on polling day.

"For too many years the majority has looked on with silent indifference as matters affecting their lives were decided by others," said Murphy Morobe, a spokesman for the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) which is coordinating the protest.

Political analysts said the tension brought about by the MDM action, and by a month of public protests and clashes between stone-throwing youths in Cape



Archbishop Desmond Tutu being arrested as he tried to march to protest police beatings of other

Town townships could play into the hands of the NP by frightening white voters.

The Democrats fear their campaign may have been damaged by MDM calls for sympathetic whites to boycott the polls.

The MDM has called a non-violent protest. However, a bomb damaged a railway line outside

Cape Town halting early morning commuter train services.

The government-owned South African Transport Services reported that morning commuter trains carried 40 per cent of normal traffic in Cape province, compared with 70 to 75 per cent in Transvaal province.

In the Cape and Natal on the Indian Ocean, transport officials and independent observers reported that the majority of the black labour force did not work.

In Port Elizabeth the country's major motor vehicle assembly factories were silent and empty. Most non-white pupils across the country boycotted schools.

Bonn faces 'critical' situation in Prague

PRAGUE (AP) — More than 300 East Germans hoping to flee to the West have taken refuge in Bonn's embassy in Prague, camping out in the grounds and leading to a "critical" situation inside the mission, a diplomat was quoted as saying Tuesday.

Michael Steiner of the West German embassy told the Communist Party daily Rude Pravo that there was a "continuous influx" of East Germans.

The mission was closed to the public Aug. 23 after about 140 East Germans were reported to have taken refuge there, seeking safe passage to West Germany.

Scores more have arrived since, apparently climbing over an unguarded two-metre fence that surrounds the well-tended embassy park. Giant tents have been erected in the grounds to house the refugees.

There has been no comment from Prague government officials as to whether they would allow Hungary's more reform-minded leadership into allowing the East Germans to go to West Germany. Czechoslovakia's entrenched Communist leadership is close to East German leader Erich Honecker, and appeared unlikely to offend him by allowing the East Germans to flee to the West.

Bonn was forced to shut its Prague embassy in October 1984 when some 160 East Germans sought refuge there. They returned home to East Germany in January 1985 after a hunger strike

failed to win them exit visas, and it is not known if they ever were allowed to leave later for West Germany.

Several temporary West German visa offices have been opened at different points around Prague to cope with the task of issuing visas.

Czechoslovaks, who are enjoying new freedom to travel to the west, have been requesting visas at a rate of up to 6,000 a day.

Austria said last week it was suspending visa rules for East Germans in neighbouring Hungary, raising expectations that the refugees would shortly be allowed to leave en masse for the West.

But Hungarian Interior Minister Istvan Horvath was quoted Monday as saying Budapest could not permit a refugee exodus unless the East German governments resolved their differences on emigration rights.

Referring to some 5,000 East Germans waiting in camps for permission to leave this week, Horvath told the West German magazine Stern: "First East Germany and West Germany have to agree about this. We cannot and will not allow them to leave secretly in the night."

He said a solution to the refugee crisis could take another four to six weeks.

The East German government reiterated that refugees must go home to seek exit visas.

Record 'China white' haul in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Police raided a house in this British colony and seized \$420 million worth of "China white" heroin in what is believed to be the third largest seizure of the drug, authorities said Tuesday.

Officers confiscated 419 kilograms of heroin, more than 90 per cent pure, along with two automatic pistols and radio scanners used to monitor police activity during Monday's raid.

Police officials said the drugs were probably bound for the United States and Australia and were an indication of Hong Kong's growing role as a conduit of heroin from the South-East Asia's "Golden Triangle."

Two men and two women were arrested at four different locations after the raid, said Tsang Yam-pui, chief staff officer of the narcotics bureau. Police were still looking for three other men.

Tsang estimated the street value of the drugs at \$420 million. According to U.S. statistics, it would be enough to supply one out of every five U.S. addicts for a year.

Tsang said the seizure capped a six-month probe of the drug ring. He said the drugs, wrapped in brown paper and displayed at the news conference, had been smuggled through Thailand and arrived in Hong Kong by boat after passing through both international and Chinese waters.

The drugs arrived in Hong Kong several days and more than 100 police officers had been on the trail since, he said.

The drug raid apparently was the second-biggest seizure of

"China white" heroin and the third-biggest seizure of heroin ever.

In January 1988, authorities seized 1.1 tonnes of "China white" packed into bales of rubber on a U.S.-bound ship in the Gulf of Thailand. In January 1982, authorities in Iran seized 640 kilograms of "brown sugar" heroin, the drug's Middle Eastern variety.

Tsang said the seizure, which comes at a time of declining heroin use in Hong Kong, was an indication that gangs here are looking for international markets for heroin.

The Hong Kong government released a report Tuesday that said new reports of drug addiction fell in 1988 by about 11 per cent when compared to 1987. For several years, U.S. authorities have said Chinese gangs, based in Hong Kong and Thailand with connections in the United States, were moving into the heroin racket in the United States.

The most recent case illustrating this trend was the U.S. "Operation White Mare," which resulted in the seizure of 375.5 kilograms of "China white" in three locations in New York City in February.

Arrests were made in the United States, Singapore and Hong Kong.

The drugs in both the "white mare" case and Monday's haul came from the "Golden Triangle," which comprises the border areas of Thailand, Burma and Laos.

5 held in Tokyo in uranium sale bid

TOKYO (AP) — Five Japanese tried to sell four kilograms of uranium to the U.S. embassy in Tokyo and have been arrested for illegal possession of nuclear substances, police announced Tuesday.

The Tokyo metropolitan police department said the group brought a capsule containing about 100 grammes of uranium to the U.S. embassy in Tokyo in early August and offered another four kilograms of the same substance for 12 billion yen (\$83 million).

They identified the ring leader as a 43-year-old woman, Toshiko Nishijima. They provided no further details about her.

A police agent at the airport had said that following an anonymous telephone call the explosive device had been discovered aboard the airliner, removed and exploded in a remote area of the airport.

But in Bogota Major Martin told Reuters that a cardboard box unloaded from the plane was found in the baggage area unclaimed. It was treated suspiciously and taken to a remote area of the airport, but was found to be empty.

Eight fighter jets arrived at an air force base on the Caribbean coast to aid in the anti-narcotics offensive declared by President Virgilio Barco Aug. 18.

The jets, and two C-130 cargo planes that arrived here on Sunday and five UH-1 Huey helicopters due Tuesday, are part of a \$65 million emergency U.S. aid package.

"But we believe the substance was brought in from abroad and there must be collaborators who helped to smuggle it into Japan," Ushikoshi also said police do not believe the group is related to terrorists or politically motivated.

"It looks like the group's intent was purely money," he said.

He said police arrested the five last week and have been interrogating them to determine where the four kilograms of remaining uranium is kept, where the substance came from and whether there are other collaborators.

"One of them has stated that they bought four kilograms of uranium from an unidentified person for five billion yen (\$35 million) and someone is keeping it at a cost of three-million yen (\$20,600) a day," said Ushikoshi.

"We believe the remaining uranium is kept somewhere in Japan."

He also said the group offered the uranium to the U.S. embassy because "they probably thought ordinary people or companies wouldn't buy such an outrageous thing."

The U.S. embassy declined to comment, saying the case was not a diplomatic matter but rather a police matter. Police declined to give details of who was contacted at the embassy and how.

Police said the uranium was "very dangerous to the public." Nuclear experts said four kilograms of uranium could make a powerful atomic bomb.

Junior role for Communists in Polish cabinet

WARSAW (R) — Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki has almost completed a Solidarity-led government that will relegate Poland's Communists to a junior role for the first time since World War II, a parliamentary source said Tuesday.

Solidarity would have the biggest share in the four-party coalition cabinet with at least six portfolios and a deputy prime ministership plus several key offices with cabinet rank, including control of the state media, the source added.

The Communists would have three or four ministries including the crucial defence, interior and transport portfolios and possibly the foreign trade ministry as well as a deputy premiership, the source said.

The Foreign Ministry, which has been the subject of a tug-of-war between the coalition partners, was being given to an independent.

The source said Mazowiecki had chosen his candidates for the Foreign Ministry and most other ministries but would not announce them until he handed the list to Sejm (lower house) speaker Mikolaj Kozalewicz Thursday.

Solidarity would have a deputy premiership and the ministries of industry, finance, housing, education and labour and a new communications ministry. It was also expected to get the posts for trade union relations, religious affairs and media which have cabinet rank.

The source said the small United Peasant Party (UPP)

and the Democratic Party (DP), longtime allies of the Communists, would each receive a deputy premiership and four and two ministries respectively.

The UPP would get health, agriculture, justice and ecology and the DP would have the domestic trade ministry and probably the ministry of culture.

The new government will be the first in eastern Europe not to be dominated by Communists since the late 1940s.

The source said parliamentary commissions would start examining ministerial candidates Friday. Speaker Kozalewicz has said he hopes the government can be sworn in and start work by Sept. 12.

Mazowiecki Tuesday held final talks on the cabinet

formation. UPP leaders confirmed after meeting him that their party would get four portfolios and a deputy premiership.

However, Communist sources in parliament said their party was pressing for more portfolios.

A top Central Committee official, Slawomir Wiatr, said in West Germany Monday the party wanted six cabinet posts.

Mazowiecki's slow pace in forming the government since his nomination Aug. 19 has aroused impatience. Solidarity's Gazeta Wyborcza newspaper said Monday the economy was slipping out of control and the new government would have to act fast to prevent hyperinflation.

Inflation is nearing 200 per cent and the Polish Zloty has

plunged 23 per cent to 10,100 Zloties per dollar on the free exchange market since Mazowiecki's nomination. It was 3,500 at the beginning of the year.

Gazeta Wyborcza said Mazowiecki would have to act firmly and draw up a programme of deep economic changes quickly to halt Poland's economic slide.

"Until the new programme is ready we will suffer because of the policies pursued by the (present Communist-led) government which have in fact ceased to exist due to the breakdown of the economic system."

"Our hopes are not in magic tricks but in a programme of changes on an historic scale prepared by the new government," the newspaper added.

U.S. blacklists Noriega associates, bans trade

PANAMA CITY (AP) — The United States has forbidden U.S. companies and government agencies from buying from Panamanian officials or their companies.

U.S. embassy officials who announced the action said it was intended to "hurt the pocketbooks" of people associated with General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The general, Panama's de facto ruler, is under indictment in the United States on narcotics charges.

On the blacklist are Panamanian officials who own companies that do millions of dollars of business with the U.S. southern command military installations here and with the Panama Canal Commission, a U.S. government agency which administers the Panama Canal.

There are more than 150 names of the list, including all members of the cabinet and the 14 members of the Panamanian Defence Forces' strategic command, the officials said.

U.S. government agencies are estimated to purchase nearly \$900 million annually in goods and services in Panama. Embassy officials said a list of companies "owned by Noriega or people connected with him will be released within the next few days."

Meanwhile, at the summit of non-aligned nations meeting in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Panama's newly appointed vice president, Carlos Ocasio, charged that U.S. troops stationed in his country were "on the brink of a military intervention."

He told reporters that the United States "is trying to frighten us and trigger a spark which would provoke an intervention by its troops in Panama."

Panamanian officials have made similar claims in the past. The U.S. government does not recognise newly appointed provisional president, Francisco Rodriguez, whom it considers a puppet of Noriega.

Rodriguez took office Friday to fill the vacuum created when the Panamanian government nullified the May 7 elections.

Rodriguez, a childhood friend of Noriega, swore in his new cabinet Monday and said he would govern with the help of an

appointed legislative commission. Six of the 11 members announced were reappointed to the same posts. The foreign minister will be announced later, the presidency said.

Opposition leaders, who refused to form a junta, said they had turned down an offer during the weekend to participate in the 41-member legislative commission.

"Our fight is for the democratisation of our country and not for bureaucratic spoils or for political spaces," said Ricardo Arias Calderon, former vice presidential candidate. He said the offer had come from the government, but declined to specify how.

The list released Monday includes Fortunato Magravia, owner of a meat market that counts the southern command as one of its biggest customers. Magravia is a director of the National Bank of Panama, the government central bank.

The U.S. army also is the biggest customer here of the company Fimas Eficientes, a computer paper and forms distributor owned by Angel Modesto Jaen, an official of the national sports institute and one of those on the list.

"U.S. companies cannot sell to these people or their companies or extend any credit," said embassy spokesman Terry Kneebone.

Still in effect are U.S. government sanctions imposed on Panama more than a year ago that withheld payments of canal fees and taxes on Panama Canal Commission salaries and freeze Panamanian government funds in the United States. They also forbid U.S. companies from dealing with Panamanian government agencies.

But U.S. officials and opposition leaders here acknowledged privately that the sanctions had not had the desired effect: to force Noriega's ouster.

Sources indicated that U.S. firms and others were violating the sanctions through intermediaries. "This time the (U.S.) Treasury Department will be more vigorous in the application of the sanctions," a U.S. source said.

The source spoke on condition they not be identified.



Colombian government soldiers search passersby in downtown Medellin as increasing violence threatens the city in the ongoing battle against drug barons.

Bomb attacks, shootouts persist in Colombian war

MEDELLIN, Colombia (R) — Two people were killed and a dozen injured in a shootout and a bomb damaged a police outpost in new violence in Colombia as eight U.S. jet fighters arrived to help fight the country's war against the powerful cocaine cartels.

In Medellin, Colombia's drug capital, a bomb thrown by assailants on a motorcycle Monday night damaged a one-room police outpost, an officer at Medellin police headquarters said. No one was hurt.

He also reported dynamite explosions in two working-class neighbourhoods. Two people were slightly hurt in one blast, said the officer, who declined to be identified.

Earlier Monday, a gunman clad in army combat fatigues opened fire with an automatic assault rifle on two waiting rooms at Medellin's international airport which were packed with local businessmen and industrialists.

Witnesses said police and troops returned fire, hitting the

man eight times and killing him. A judicial official said the assailant carried no identity papers.

The other man killed was identified as Rafael Arango Cuatras, 27, an executive at a Medellin paint factory badly damaged in a dynamite attack last week.

The 12 people injured included three police officers. A police spokeswoman said the gunman was a "sicario," a term commonly used to refer to dreaded hit men employed by drug lords to kill government officials and anyone else who stands in the way of their multi-billion dollar business.

But later Major Jorge Martin of the national police said: "We don't know if he was a cartel hit man."

Major Martin denied a report that an explosive device had been found on an Avianca plane at the Medellin airport.

The report said an explosive device had been removed from an aircraft that arrived from Cali, home to a cocaine cartel that rivals the Medellin-based orga-

Adopt a killer whale

OSLO (R) — If your pet goldfish is too dull, now is the time to adopt a killer whale swimming in the icy seas off northern Norway. A Norwegian research centre on whales and the World Wide Fund for Nature have six killer whales available for adoption at a mere 5,000 crowns (\$700) each. In exchange, you get a picture of the new pet — rather larger than a goldfish at an average weight of between three to five tonnes and seven to nine metres long — and are also allowed to choose a name. The money is used for further research on whales. So far, 36 killer whales of a total 42 registered in the waters near the village of Andenes have been adopted. "Most of the whales have been adopted by Swedes — they seem to have the money," said Oerjan Nilsen, a spokesman for the research centre Hvalsfari A/S.

Brakhage gets MacDowell Medal

PETERBOROUGH, New Hampshire (AP) — Stan Brakhage, one of the most influential filmmakers of America's avant-garde cinema, is this year's recipient of the prestigious Edward MacDowell Medal. It was the first time in 30 years the medal has been given to a filmmaker. Brakhage was cited for "lifelong commitment to producing inventive films that go beyond conventional devices of plot and character." Brakhage uses intense imagery, light and colour, and fast-paced rhythm and montage techniques. He has made more than 200 films, ranging in length from nine seconds to four hours. The MacDowell Medal, named for the American composer, is awarded to a writer, composer or visual artist for outstanding contributions to American culture.

Hawn, Hudson at each others throats

NEW YORK (AP) — Time hasn't healed the scars for actress Goldie Hawn and singer-actor Bill Hudson, who has described his ex-wife as a "cold-eyed shark." Hawn said Hudson had "devastated" the couple's two children with his recent remarks to People magazine. The couple were divorced nine years ago. Hudson, who recently married actress Cindy Williams, said in an interview that Hawn, who has been living with actor Kurt Russell for six years, was not honouring his visiting rights to their two children, Oliver, 13, and Kate, 10. "If Goldie's in control, she's happy," Hudson said. "As soon as that bubble is burst," he added, she turns into "a cold-eyed shark." Hawn said Hudson was getting revenge for her refusal to sign a document that would allow him to borrow money on the Malibu, California, house he was awarded in the divorce settlement.

'Marilyn Monroe had no sex appeal'

DEAUVILLE, France (R) — Marilyn Monroe, a screen sex symbol for a generation, possessed little sex appeal in real life, according to American actor Robert Mitchum. The 72-year-old star was asked about the late actress at an American film festival in Deauville. "Marilyn was not a very sexy girl, not at all," said Mitchum, a man known for his bluntness. "She had no sex appeal at all. None. She had a number of various serious physical problems, really, and she was very shy." Mitchum was in Deauville for a tribute to his films, dating back to 1943. Among the pictures were "When Strangers Marry," which won him an Oscar award nomination in 1944 and "River of no return," which co-starred Monroe.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MAX	MIN	WIND
AMSTERDAM	10	5	Cloudy
ATHENS	20	15	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	31	25	99 Clear
BANGKOK	28	23	91 Clear
BELLEVILLE	50	39	98 Rain
BIRMINGHAM	22	12	72 Cloudy
CHICAGO	18	10	77 Rain
COPENHAGEN	10	5	84 Clear
FRANKFURT	10	5	88 Clear
GENOVA	22	12	81 Clear
HONG KONG	20	15	84 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	10	5	85 Clear
LONDON	15	10	72 Clear
LOS ANGELES	19	14	88 Clear
MADRID	18	11	88 Cloudy
MEXICO	28	24	83 Clear
MONTREAL	11	5	72 Cloudy
MOSCOW	10	5	85 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	25	17	85 Clear
NEW YORK	11	5	73 Cloudy
PARIS	11	5	80 Clear
ROME	15	10	78 Cloudy
SYDNEY	24	17	81 Clear
TOKYO	24	17	81 Clear
VIENNA	12	6	85 Cloudy